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PRUSSIA.

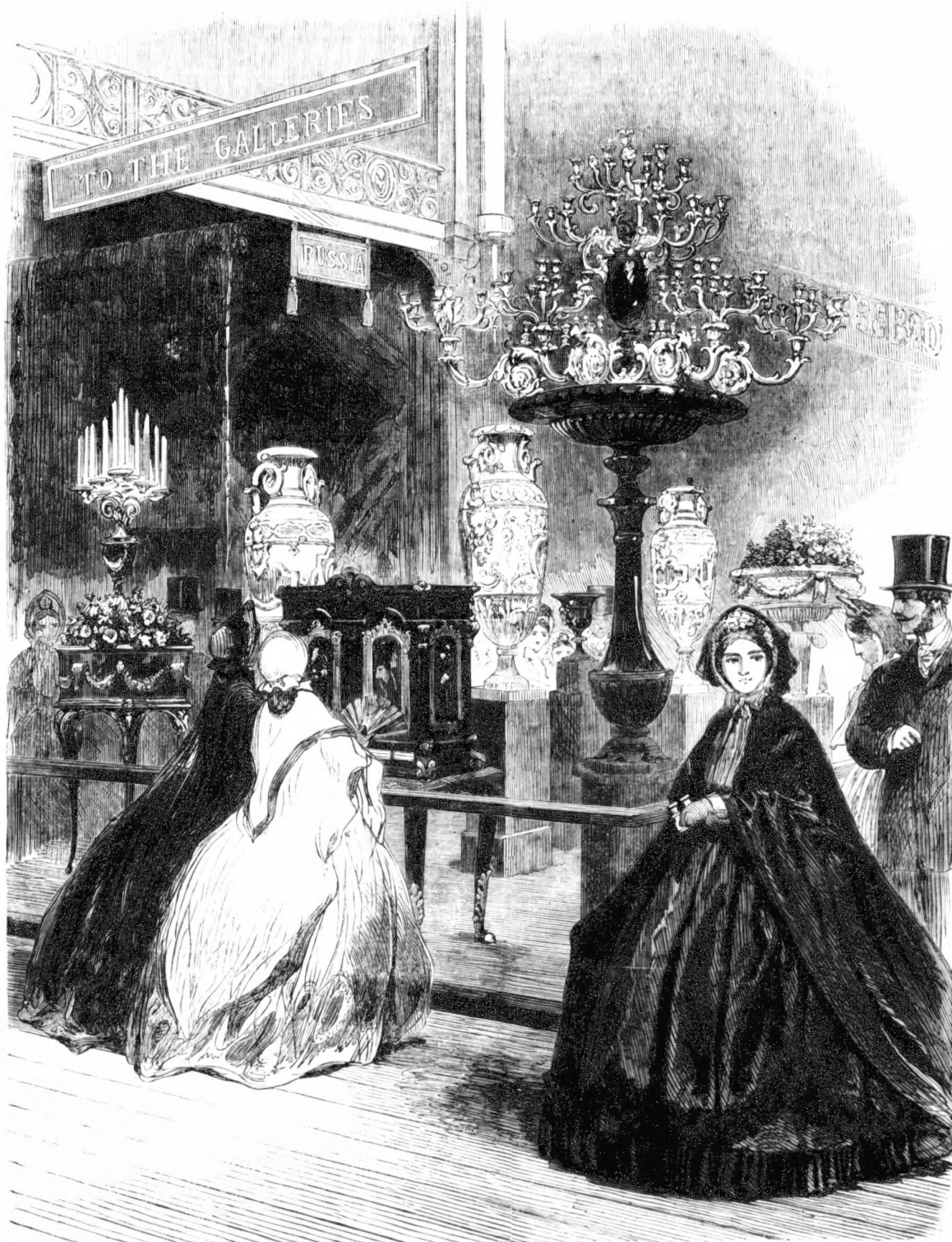
THE country which is the great political centre of attraction just now is Prussia, certainly one of the most uninteresting in Europe. It is neither ancient and respectable nor young and enterprising. Its inhabitants are not only not free, but they have almost been persuaded that they are, so that there is more hope of slaves than of them. It is one of the most military countries in Europe—that is to say, it has long been governed and drilled after the most soldier-like fashion—and it was annihilated in a few weeks by Napoleon, and its King forced to give up not only the Polish provinces, to which he had no shadow of right, but also others to which he really had some claim. It pretends to the rank of an independent country, and throughout the Polish War of 1830-1, after proclaiming its neutrality, it acted as Russia's jackal; while during the war in the Crimea it was afraid to take part either with or against the Emperor Nicholas. It affects to have a great regard for "nationalities," and will not, when they are of German origin, see them oppressed. Thus the German subjects of the King of Denmark in Schleswig and Holstein are always sure of its sympathy, and have a right, if they are of a sanguine disposition, to expect its interference on their behalf as soon as the wrongs suffered by them at the hands of the Danes are clearly ascertained. But the Polish subjects of Russia, according to the Prussian theory, have ceased to be Poles, and are now only Germans, who, from weakness and fatuity persist in speaking the Polish language. There is no such thing as Polish nationality, and all imitations of it on German soil deserve to be put down. As for treaties, they are only to be kept when it suits Prussia to keep them. The treaty under which she puts forward her claim to interfere in the affairs of Denmark

belongs almost to the middle ages, but it has the same force and validity for her as if it had been signed only yesterday. Yet the treaty of 1815, which binds her to govern her Polish subjects not as Germans, but as Poles, and which

she would, if necessary, and at the same time possible, involve all Europe in war—is that which relates to the Rhine boundary. In a word, Prussia, as a nation, believes in what she fancies may benefit her and disbelieves in everything else. Compared with Prussia, France appears quite scrupulous in the good faith with which she keeps to existing compacts.

So much for her foreign policy. As to her internal administration, what first strikes us is, that in Prussia there is one law for those who govern and another for those who are governed; or, rather, there is no law for the governed at all, not at least as between them and their rulers. Between subjects who, on both sides, are quite unconnected with the administration, all that takes place in the way of legal proceedings is fair enough. A bootmaker may recover money from a tailor for a pair of boots, or a tailor from a bootmaker for a suit of clothes. In these cases justice is administered as righteously as in the days and empire of Haroun al Raschid. The law courts are open, the Judges do not take bribes, and trial by jury is tolerated in all cases in which the Crown is not interested. But, as soon as his Majesty the King or any of his Majesty's Ministers are concerned, away goes the jury—just as in our English procedure, some, thirty years, since a prisoner was deprived of advocacy when he was accused of a capital crime. Offences against the State and all breaches of the laws against the press, are decided by Judges appointed by the Crown, without the aid of any jury whatever.

When a trial takes place, whether with or without a jury, of course that in itself is a show of legality, if nothing more. But the Prussian police possesses irresponsible despotic power to such an extent that its action often takes the place of legal proceedings, so that alleged offences are punished, or



INTERIOR OF THE RUSSIAN COURT AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

guarantees to them "national institutions and a national representation," is looked upon as too antiquated for further observance. The only part of the Treaty of Vienna which Prussia still believes in—and for the maintenance of which

course that in itself is a show of legality, if nothing more. But the Prussian police possesses irresponsible despotic power to such an extent that its action often takes the place of legal proceedings, so that alleged offences are punished, or

their commission prevented, without any intervention of the law whatever.

Let us explain what we mean by preventing the commission of an alleged offence. It is an offence, then, in Prussia, to do anything to which the Administration may object without reference to the abstract legality of the deed. Thus, it is an offence to sell or offer for sale any book which, either for religious, moral, or political reasons, is displeasing to the Government; and, to avoid all unpleasantness, works, chiefly, of course, of a political nature, are often proscribed beforehand, though it is well known that in Prussia no censorship exists. If the offence is committed—if the forbidden books or newspapers are offered for sale—then the bookseller or news-vender is reprimanded, his contraband goods are seized, and he may esteem himself a fortunate man if his licence to sell is not taken away. He has no means of justifying himself, for he is brought before no tribunal. An excuse, according to the French proverb, is a species of accusation, but a man cannot even excuse himself when no accusation is brought against him.

The great art of Prussian government consists in gaining and keeping up a reputation for Liberalism while practising despotism. Austria has never been such a hypocrite. She also might have said long ago "The censorship is abolished," while constituting every policeman a censor. She also might have said "Trial by jury is established," and then have added, "except in political cases"—the only ones in which that great safeguard is absolutely indispensable. Austria might, moreover, have proclaimed the complete liberty of the newspaper press, and yet, had she been inclined to follow the example of Prussia, have so managed matters that not a journal should be started in all her empire without the special sanction of the Government, and that every journal not possessing that sanction should be suppressed. This desirable end is attained in Prussia in the following easy and simple manner, which we make public for the benefit of tyrannical Sovereigns who aspire to quite a contrary character:—The code proclaims the press free, but renders it incumbent on printers to obtain permission to open printing-offices from the police. Under this arrangement you are at liberty to print whatever you like if you can only get a printer to undertake the work for you, which, if the printer has received a caution on the subject from the police-office, he will take very good care not to do. Russia and Austria, with the frankness of acknowledged despotism, say that they will not tolerate opposition from the press beyond a certain point. Prussia, however, is too much of a Western Power to venture upon such a course as this. She accordingly invites writers publicly, through the law, to express themselves freely on all subjects, and takes care privately, through the Administration, that they shall do nothing of the kind.

Prussia, however, is a despotism which is beginning to grow ashamed of being despotic. More than that, its rulers seem now really to have excited some feeling of independence on the part of the people, who, without stepping over legal limits, have at the recent elections protested to the best of their power against the recent eminently unparliamentary conduct of the King. But until Prussia ceases to protest illegally on behalf of the people of Schleswig, who, in a diplomatic sense, are nothing or next to nothing to her, and as long as she continues to disregard the protests of the Poles of Posen, whose rights are secured to them by a treaty not fifty years old, it will be always difficult to believe that this so-called constitutional State is governed on any principles of equity.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Prince Napoleon has left Paris to meet his father-in-law, King Victor Emmanuel, in the south of Italy. The French official organ of the 11th declared that the Prince had not received any political mission from the Emperor; but, notwithstanding the declaration of the *Moniteur*, the Parisians are firm in their belief that the journey of Prince Napoleon to Naples has a political object, and that he is the bearer of the Emperor's views on the Roman question. This belief is strengthened by its having leaked out that a somewhat long interview took place between the Emperor and his cousin on the day of the departure of the latter. M. Lavalette is about to return to his post at Rome, it having been arranged, either by accident or design, that he should leave Paris and General Goyon Rome on the same day, the 18th inst.

The King and Queen of Holland have left Paris on their return home. Notwithstanding denials in the Dutch and Belgian papers, it is still believed that the object of their Majesties' visit to France was to arrange a marriage between the heir of the Dutch crown and the Princess Anna Murat.

The supplementary estimates for the present year have been presented to the French Chamber. They amount to upwards of two millions and a quarter sterling, which raises the Budget to the enormous sum of nearly £86,000,000. In order to moderate the natural apprehension this statement might occasion, it is accompanied with an estimated anticipation of an increase in the receipts of a sum but little short of the supplementary estimates. It is certain, however, that this strain of the resources of the country cannot be sustained, and that a course of retrenchment must perforce be entered on.

BELGIUM.

The King of the Belgians seems to be progressing satisfactorily, and his health promises soon to be re-established. The Duke of Brabant has arrived in Brussels, and was received with cordial cheering by a numerous crowd which had gathered at the terminus of the railway. The health of his Royal Highness is stated to be much improved by his sojourn in Spain.

ITALY.

King Victor Emmanuel, after having visited and been fêted at Salerno, has proceeded to Sicily. He arrived in Messina on Sunday evening, and was welcomed with an enthusiastic reception as that which greeted him in Naples and Salerno. After his arrival a service was celebrated in the cathedral, at which the "Te Deum" was sung. The King himself was present. The city was illuminated, and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed.

Prince Napoleon arrived at Naples on the 13th, and the French Ambassador and the English and French Admirals went on board the Imperial yacht to pay their respects to him.

Letters from Rome of the 10th state that General Goyon has

announced his recall to the Pope, and was to leave on the 18th. Sir J. Hudson, in passing through Rome, had a long interview, it is said, with Cardinal Antonelli. Those with whom the Ambassador conversed give out that the Roman question will be solved within the next two months. The King of Naples is ill with measles, and only sees the two Queens.

It is reported that Austria has increased her troops along the frontier of Lombardy by 10,000 men. Four battalions of troops have been concentrated on the Tyrolean frontier.

AUSTRIA.

A report is current at Vienna that the reduction in the Austrian army will amount to 70,000 men.

A private letter from Pesth states that an unexpected political demonstration took place on the 7th at the National Theatre. A new comedy was being performed: in it occurs a scene in which one of the actors looks over an album of photographic portraits, calling out the names aloud as he does so. When he mentioned that of Victor Emmanuel, a thunder of applause burst forth, and lasted at least five minutes, the pit standing up during the spontaneous ovation.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Chambers will open on the 19th (Monday next). It is believed that they will not be opened by the King in person. The returns of the elections are now nearly complete, and they show an overwhelming majority gained by the Progressist party. The more moderate Liberals have suffered losses, and the other political parties, such as the Feudalists and Roman Catholics, are nowhere. Not one of the present Ministers has been elected. There are some rumours afloat to the effect that the Ministry will seek popularity by introducing measures for the rearrangement of the electoral system and for abolishing the present cumbrous and useless process of double election. But as yet these are mere rumours.

ELECTORAL HESSE.

It is currently reported in Frankfurt that Austria and Prussia are about jointly to occupy Electoral Hesse if the refractory Sovereign of that much-perplexed State should still continue deaf to the voice of reason. The King of Prussia has dispatched his Aide-de-Camp, General de Willisen, to the Elector, in order to expostulate with him on the injudiciousness of his resisting the demand of the Diet and refusing to restore the Constitution which his subjects call for and which alone they will recognise.

RUSSIA.

A report reaches us of a military conspiracy in favour of Poland having been discovered in St. Petersburg. It is stated that a great number of officers, all of whom are Russians, are implicated in this affair, and that a full and searching inquiry has already been commenced. But this report only arrives from Thorn, in Prussia—a source from which many exaggerations of Russian intelligence have frequently travelled.

GREECE.

The Paris papers publish a despatch from Corfu containing news from Athens to the 10th inst., according to which the Ministry had resigned, and the Chambers had been prorogued. M. Tricoupi had declined, on account of ill-health, to form a new Ministry. The public mind was disturbed and impatient.

SYRIA.

The Paris papers of Monday evening publish a telegram from Alexandria containing news from Beyrout to the 9th inst., asserting that matters had reached such a crisis at Aleppo as to render disturbances imminent. The Christian priests and population had, it is stated, been insulted and provoked. The same despatch adds that the Prince of Wales, while in Syria, was cheered by the Druses.

MEXICO.

News from Mexico announces the entire withdrawal of the Spanish and English forces from Mexico. Eight thousand French were on their way to the city, 2000 more were near the Mexican coast, and 4000 more were at St. Thomas on their way to the Gulf. General Almonte was said to have issued a circular to the Mexican authorities asking for power to treat with the Allies as Dictator, and to convoke an Assembly charged to decide upon the form of government most suitable to the country.

The yellow fever was very bad at Vera Cruz. A number of English marines had fallen victims.

INDIA.

Despatches from Calcutta to the 16th of April give some particulars of Mr. Laing's financial statement, which was considered to be satisfactory. The financial year commences with a deficit of £6,000,000, but he estimates a surplus on the year of £900,000, notwithstanding an expenditure of £1,500,000 on public works in excess of the amount for the current year. The military expenditure is reduced to £12,200,000. The surplus is disposed of by an augmentation of the education grant and of the public assignments. The reduction of the import duties on piece goods and yarns is confirmed; the paper duty is abolished; the duties on beer and claret are reduced by one-half, and that on tobacco to 20 per cent ad valorem. The income tax is reduced to 2 per cent on certain incomes, and abolished altogether in regard to smaller ones. Its total repeal is promised at the end of five years from its commencement. The cash balances for the year closed at £17,690,000.

Bombay accounts to the 27th of April state that Furrak had been taken by the Persians.

It was reported that the nephews of Nana Sahib had been captured in Cashmere.

THE WAR IN AMERICA.

New Orleans has surrendered to the Federals. Several of the Union gun-boats succeeded in passing the forts and in taking up a position from which they could bombard and destroy the city. The accounts state that the Federal commander, Farragut, formally demanded of the Mayor of New Orleans an unqualified surrender of the city on the 26th ult. He likewise demanded that the Federal flag should be hoisted on all public buildings, and all Confederate flags removed. He requested the Mayor to use his authority to quell any disturbance, and concluded by saying, "I shall severely punish any persons committing such outrages as were witnessed yesterday, by armed men firing upon helpless women and children, for giving expression to their pleasure at witnessing the old flag." The Mayor replied that for the sake of the women and children General Lovell evacuated the city, leaving the administration of affairs to the civil authorities. "To surrender an undefended city," he continued, "would be an unmeaning ceremony. The city is yours by power of brutal force, not by the choice or consent of the inhabitants. It is for you to determine the fate that awaits us here. There is no man in our midst whose hand or head would not be paralysed at hoisting a flag not of our own adoption. You may trust in the honour of the inhabitants, though you may not count on their submission to unmerited wrong. Your occupancy of the city does not transfer the allegiance of the inhabitants from the Government of their choice to one which they have deliberately repudiated. They yield the obedience which the conqueror is entitled to exact from the conquered." A battalion of Federal marines from the squadron thereupon occupied the city. There had been no bloodshed. General Butler's forces had landed on Lake Ponchartrain, and were within a few miles of the city.

General Mansfield Lovell, with his whole army, retired by railway to Fort Monroe, seventy-eight miles on the road to Memphis, to effect a junction with General Beauregard, who is said to have evacuated Corinth and retired upon Memphis, where a great battle was believed to be imminent. Both General Halleck and General Beauregard had been largely reinforced.

Fort Macon surrendered on the 25th ult. to General Burnside. The garrison retired with the honours of war. The Federal loss was seven killed and eighteen wounded; the Confederate loss is not stated.

There was no definite intelligence from General McClellan's army

before Yorktown. Generals McDowell and Banks were said to be progressing in their advance through Virginia.

Congress has passed a vote of censure on ex-Secretary Cameron, of the War Department, for adopting, with regard to army contracts, a policy highly injurious to the public. A similar vote with regard to the conduct of Secretary Welles, of the Navy, has been negatived. The Committee of Ways and Means had reported an appropriation amounting to 226,000 dollars for the support of the Army during the year ending June, 1863.

Much speculation was still indulged in as to the recent visit of the French Ambassador, M. Mercier, to Richmond. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald* affirms that a consultation had taken place at Washington between the Federal Cabinet and the foreign diplomatic corps. The consultation referred to the French Minister's visit to Richmond, and the question of an armistice was discussed. It was believed that the French Minister since the occupation of New Orleans had concluded that the time had arrived when, under the instructions of the Emperor, he may step forward as mediator. Also, that in consideration of the monopoly of commercial advantages and aid of some kind from the Southern States in regard to Mexico, the Emperor Napoleon had agreed to use his influence with the Federal Government to end the war upon terms securing to the Southern States an independent nationality; and that, if the Federal Government did not accept his mediation, the Emperor would himself acknowledge the Southern Confederacy.

IRELAND.

THE MURDERS IN TIPPERARY.—An inquest on the body of Maguire, who was murdered last week in Tipperary, has been held. From the evidence it appears that the body was found within 100 paces of where two of Maguire's men were working in the field, and the constabulary on patrol passed along the by-road close to the spot of the murder (which was in the field) about the time it was committed. It was, besides, within half a mile of the police-barrack. A knife was selected, lest the police should hear the shot of a pistol or a gun. Kennedy was apprehended shortly after the murder, and quite near to the spot where it was perpetrated. Several witnesses proved that Kennedy had threatened the deceased, had complained that he only owed a year's rent, and that he would die on the road to be revenged of any one who would take his farm. Soon after the murder was committed, Kennedy went into the neighbouring smith's forge. The smith had heard of the murder and had mentioned it to another man, but neither of them said a word about it to Kennedy lest they should hurt his feelings, as he had been put out of the farm! The coroner told the smith that he did not believe that he had said nothing of the murder to Kennedy. The inquest has been adjourned.—*Mdme. Thiebauld* has left Ireland with her children.

THE GALWAY CONTRACT.—A deputation of Irish members had an interview with Lord Palmerston on Monday on the subject of a renewal of the Galway contract. Lord Dunsink, one of the members for Galway, was the spokesman, and set forth the efforts which the company are now making to run packets regularly. The Premier would not commit himself, but promised that the subject should be fully considered in the Cabinet.

SCOTLAND.

THE QUEEN AT BALMORAL.—Her Majesty has lived in quiet retirement since her arrival at Balmoral. The palace seems duller than it was before she came. There is not a servant within the palace who is clothed in deep mourning. The Queen remains in the strictest privacy. At times she takes a short drive in her carriage to a distance of five or six miles from the Castle. She has, as is usual with her at Balmoral, called on a number of the deserving cottagers on the Royal estates, kindly inquiring into their circumstances and relieving their wants when necessary. The Duke of Argyll is still in attendance at Balmoral.

NARROW ESCAPE.—The other day a workman on a Scotch railway, overcome by fatigue, fell asleep across the rails. He was not observed in this dangerous position until a loaded truck, advancing at great speed down the incline, was almost upon him. No sooner was he observed than a loud shout was raised to warn him of his danger, and almost instantly thereafter the truck passed right over him. Those who had witnessed this painful scene at once rushed to the spot, anticipating nothing less than that their fellow-workman had been crushed to death; but to their joyful surprise they found that he had escaped this fate. It appears that, short as the warning had been, he had instinctively drawn himself together when he perceived his danger, and had thus saved his life. One foot, however, was caught by a wheel, which cut the thick-soled boot through, crushing the large toe, and severing the next two from the foot as if done by a knife. How narrowly he escaped decapitation may be judged of from the fact that the wheel on the other side of the truck left its mark on his scalp.

THE PROVINCES.

FRATRICIDE.—On Saturday evening last a number of workmen were drinking together at St. Peter's-quay, Newcastle, and on retiring from the public-house in which they had been sitting two of the party commenced to fight. Taking from his person a knife, one of the combatants struck his opponent two severe blows in the chest and side respectively, and the injured man was lifted from the scene of the affray and carried to his home. With another of his comrades the infuriated man desired to renew the conflict, and his own brother, who interposed to prevent the encounter, also received a wound from the deadly weapon, the injuries the poor fellow sustained being such that he died while being conveyed to the infirmary. On the commission of the dreadful act, the perpetrator seems at once to have become alive to the awful nature of his situation, and had resolved to terminate his existence by suicide in the Tyne; but, repenting of this, he was discovered next morning by some of his relatives, in whose company he proceeded to the police-station, and surrendered himself to the police on the charge of having killed his brother. It is believed that the murderer mistook his brother for some one of the party to whom he was opposed. The murdered man has left a wife and several children; the fratricide is also a married man with a family.

HOW TO MANAGE THE "OLD WOMAN."—A working man, living at Twynrodyn, had lately made up his mind to try his fortune in the new El Dorado, British Columbia; but knowing that his wife would be resolutely opposed to it he did not say a word to her. Time crept on; the day approached when his fellow voyagers were to depart, and on the identical morning he came downstairs, brushed himself up a bit, and said, "Well, I'm off!" "Off where?" said the startled wife. "To British Columbia," was the reply. "Well," said his wife, "if you have made up your mind positively to go, why I'll go also!" And so the loving dame put on her bonnet and shawl, a neighbour was called in, the furniture sold, and in another hour the resolute couple were on the first stage of a long, and, it is to be hoped, successful journey.

THE DESTITUITION IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.—A further increase of destitution has taken place in the township and union of Blackburn during the past week. The increase is particularly apparent from the returns of the relieving officers, while there has been a small diminution in the quantity of bread and meal distributed by the Relief Fund Committee. With this augmentation of distress there has been a large addition to the relief fund, which now amounts to £3840 3s. 6d., showing an increase of £599 15s. 4d. as compared with the last advertised statement, and including the sum of £500 remitted by the Lord Mayor of London. The Relief Fund Committee have now therefore a balance of £2000 in hand, a fund sufficient to enable them to supplement the maintenance of the distressed for the next three months upon the same ratio as that of the past few weeks. For the week ended last Saturday there were relieved in the Blackburn Union by the several relieving officers no fewer than 9773 persons, at a cost of £560 12s. 2d., being an increase, as compared with the previous week, of 316 recipients, and of £36 15s. in cost, while in the corresponding week of last year 2439 were relieved at a cost of £131 18s. 10d.—The following returns have been very carefully procured by the Central Relief Committee of Stockport, and they show the actual state of distress, and what is done to meet it:—Number of mills in the borough, 69; number of hands usually employed, 16,947; number of hands on full time, 5511; number of hands on short time (three days), 6221; number unemployed, 5215; including those in other trades, the number is 6000. The weekly loss of wages is at least £4500. Number of persons receiving parochial relief in the union, 4160; same time last year, 1263. For some time ten district relief committees have been in active operation relieving the distress, and now a central committee has been formed. The funds have been raised by weekly subscriptions—a mode of operation which is found convenient and efficient. Particular attention is called to the average income of the 11,914 persons who have been relieved, amounting only to 93d. per head for all purposes—rent, fire, and food! This fact is proof enough of the extent of destitution. The committee have this week received from the Lord Mayor of London the sum of £250, which will be distributed through the agency of the district committees.—In Manchester, matters are nearly as bad. Committees have been formed among the working classes for raising subscriptions among themselves to meet urgent cases, and an appeal has been made to the board of guardians to increase the allowances and to relax the labour test, so as to make a distinction between habitual paupers and those thrown upon the rates by the force of existing circumstances.—Last week the cost of out-door relief in the Preston Union was £581 15s. 7d., or £6 more than on the previous week, showing that the destitution is still increasing there. Last year the out-door relief was £132 19s. 2d. It is much more than four times that amount now. The private relief fund has been very much increased by the donations of the benevolent. One thousand pounds has been raised in Preston alone, and from other quarters considerable sums have been received.

FINE ARTS.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—SECOND NOTICE.

PROCEEDING with our notice of the subject-pictures, and reserving the landscapes and portraits for more special consideration, we come to Mr. Millais's (A.R.A.) principal work exhibited exactly opposite to Mr. Mulready's picture, and singularly opposed to that remarkable work in every characteristic. In the one we remarked the lasting vigour and genuine artistic quality of an octogenarian painter, in the other we observe everywhere the signs of fading energy and failing purpose in one of the youngest and most popular painters of the academy. Mr. Millais's early oddities may have been liked or disliked; they did, no doubt, offend the proprietors of the legitimists of the academy, but we all agreed as to the earnestness of purpose and the real study of the manipulation in pictures like "The Carpenter's Shop," "The Return of the Dove to the Ark," or the "Ophelia." These were, however, not his first manner, for many will remember his picture of Pizarro and another which followed it, and which, from the attitude of the principal figure, got the name of "The Kick," both in the regular school style, and destined to be thrown aside for the pre-Raphaelite fanaticism that then sprang up amongst the young painters. Then we had a third phase of the artist in his "Young Lord" and "I'm aware," merging into a more matured and larger style of meaning in "The Huguenot" and "The Order of Release." Following these admirable works of their kind, came the pictures of "The Nuns" and the Girls in the apple orchard (now in the International Exhibition), pictures not without a certain power, but shown recklessly, and without the least evidence of that nice sense of colour and form which were so appreciated in preceding works. The artist seemed to feel this, and we find him returning to work more in the manner of "The Huguenot" in his "Black Brunswicker," but without the earnestness and meaning, and without that research of colour, for which he had gained a name. After a pause of a year, we have now a large and evidently very laborious picture, for the mere painting is out of proportion to the motive of the picture and the treatment of the subject. There are parts to admire for richness of tone and truth of colour; but, with the one exception of the little girl looking up, the heads are expressionless, and the features not well modelled. It is remarkable, also, that out of the group of seven figures all but two are in direct profile. This appears to be a habit with the painter, for, not to mention it in his former works, it is a prominent fault in the two figures of the picture "Trust Me" (269). Nothing gives a more puerile character to figure-painting than this, just as the opposite quality is generally shown by well foreshortened figures. In endeavouring to read this picture it is difficult to say whether the old man in a buff jerkin is a retainer of the father and has taken the left hands of the two children in delight at seeing them again, or whether he holds them thus strongly on the stretch as their gaoler. At any rate, the position gives an extremely stiff look to the composition. The father, who might be a Borgia in armour, looks at no one in particular, holding with one hand the heap of jewels and ornaments, and with the other drawing the elder girl, whose face is not seen, to his side. Near him stands a youth who may be a brother or a page, but quite uninterested in the affair. The other figures are equally inanimate. The background is formed of green tapestry with quaint animals in the old style. "Trust Me" is a subject of a pretty sentiment—a young lady hesitating whether she shall show a letter just come in by the letter-bag to her father, an aristocratic-looking gentleman, habited, as sportsmen say, "in the pink," ready for the meet on the lawn. It was possible to have thrown much feeling into the face of the young lady, but the features are stiff and her mouth closed as if her lips were glued. The squire will, we fear, not satisfy the country gentlemen in any of his points of costume, though the head may pass as a fair portraiture of the style of man. The woman searching for a lost piece of money (309), painted—or shall we say named?—after the parable, is really beneath serious criticism, and as much unworthy the reputation of the painter. All men are not always wise; and perhaps artists, of all the world, have a large claim upon our indulgence. Let us hope to see Mr. Millais's next works bearing something of the earnest intention of his early efforts upon the face of them.

Mr. Phillip, R.A., is in rare force this year, not striving for high finish, which, after all, is a poor quality, but showing us how the true artist hand can throw life and character, and beauty of tone, colour, and picturesque form upon the canvas. Much of these qualities, which Mr. Phillip is so distinguished for, is apt to be lost when he paints more elaborately. The most precious examples of art are many of them unfinished, and it is remarkable that the weakest painters rely upon their dexterity in this particular. In "The Water-Drinkers" (No. 207), two dark Spanish women, the one about to hold the glass to the earthen vessel which the water-carrier is tilting forwards, the dashing handling is as astonishing and delightful as the beauty of rich colour and the characteristic figures. "Doubtful Fortune" (191)—Spanish ladies having their fortune told by a gypsy; and "The Volunteer," a young Spaniard taking leave of his sweetheart, have the same qualities though in a lower degree.

Mr. H. O. Neil's (A.R.A.) "Mary Stuart's Farewell to France" (337), though not appealing exactly to the same public as his "Home Again!" and "Eastward Ho!" is, in our opinion, a work in his better manner. It is full of picturesque grouping and appropriate rendering of costume. To a certain extent, also, the picture has its merits as a piece of historic painting. The hapless Queen is leaning her head upon her hand in melancholy mood as she looks over the sea, sighing her adieu to la belle France. The moment chosen by the artist is suggested by the verse of a chanson written by Marie Stuart:—

Adieu, plaisant pays de France
O, ma patrie!
La plus chérie
Qui as nourri ma jeune enfance!
Adieu, France! Adieu, nos beaux jours!

The four Maids of Honour, sisters of one family, form a very charming group. We could wish for a little less blackness of tint in the shadings of the picture throughout, and a less piling-up of the figures on the pyramidal theory; but, altogether, the work is one that confirms the artist's claims to a good position.

Few young painters ever took a better and more promising first step than Mr. Leighton, when he painted his "Cimabue's Madonna Procession," a picture at once purchased by the Queen, and now in the International Exhibition. Since then, however, his pictures have not sustained this position, unless we can admit that his works of this year do so. The "Michael Angelo Nursing his Dying Servant" (292) is finely conceived, in the manner of the best Italian art, though not, as we think, portraying the bold and energetic features of the great Florentine painter-sculptor. In colour it is severe rather than rich and sensuous as the colour of the same artist's "Odalisque" (120), or even the "Magus gazing out upon the Star of Bethlehem" (217). But none of them, and certainly not the rather silly pictures of a pretty cockneyed country lad, approach the Cimabue picture in any respect. Mr. Leighton now prefers indulging his eye for colour and his taste for the sentimental, which takes a peculiar turn, only to be comprehended by looking at the "Odalisque," a lovely girl of Eastern or Georgian beauty, leaning in a languid pose, and idly whispering a tale of love to a swan of radiant plumage. In this picture it is the surprising delicacy of the colour, combined with great richness, that charms the eye; and in this aim, perhaps, nothing has ever been accomplished more successfully than in the peculiar tone of white in the plumage of the swan. There is, too, a beautiful echo, as it were, of positive colour through the picture, the starting-place of which is the two butterflies settled on the marble column on which the "Odalisque" is leaning. To possess this gift of colour is rare, and still rarer the higher faculty of taste in employing that talent. The question of vital interest is what will he do with it? Something more worthy than the "Odalisque" should come of it.

Mr. Hook, R.A., surpasses himself in "The Trawlers" (357), a

delightful picture of the fisherman's life—a simple life, but not without its dangers, its heroism, its poetry, and beauty—the beauty of simplicity. Mr. Hook seizes these points most happily, whether in this view of the deck of a trawler all slippery with spray, and covered with the leaping fish just cast from the net hauled by the two lusty fellows of the right sort for all weathers, or in "The Acre by the Sea" (81), where all hands of the fisher family are busy ashore getting in the bit o' wheat under the hot summer sun, the father staying his stout arm for a moment as he dashes the sweat from his brow and glances a look of homely pride at his wife and the baby, evidently just taken from its nest amongst the ripe sheaves of corn. "Sea Air" (378), is another charmingly natural picture, with a sea better painted than Mr. Hook generally favours us with. It is the genuine study and perception of these subjects, and their complete originality—as there is nothing of the shop-window fishermen about them—with good honest painting, that gives Mr. Hook's work its great charm.

Mr. Herbert, R.A., exhibited no picture last year; in the present exhibition there is a large landscape by him (231), with the monkish proverb "Laborare est orare" for its title, the picture representing the monks of St. Bernard's Abbey, Leicestershire, gathering the harvest of 1861, and, as the catalogue tells us, the boys from a neighbouring reformatory in an adjoining field—a piece of information quite needed, seeing that these boys are mere spots of paint which might be anything you please. The monks, indeed, so far as any drawing of the figure or expression is concerned, are equally insignificant, and altogether the picture is a piece of artistic affectation; as a landscape cold as the air of a cloister, without a suggestion of Nature's glorious bounty. The intention of the picture is stamped even on the frame with the quotations from the parable of the sower. Thank Heaven, English art has got beyond this stand point!

Mr. C. V. Prinsep appears to be just now enamoured of the old Florentine painters in his picture "How Bianca Capello sought to poison the Cardinal de Medici," an old story of the times when secret poisoning was so common that men wore jewels in their rings which changed colour at the touch of poison. Bianca sits at the table offering more poisoned tarts to the Cardinal, but his opal has told him he has had enough. Her husband partakes of them, and she herself rather than he detected, so they died. The subject is treated in a very matter-of-fact way, without much art, but still there is an indication of genuine faculty that may or may not be turned to account under study, and the point to study is the style of the old masters, and not their manner. Mr. J. B. Bedford is another of the younger painters of the exhibition to be noticed, for his very able picture (497) "Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath." The figure of the prophet is exceedingly fine and well-studied, and the mother's head is original and striking in expression. Mr. Barwell also has produced a picture of very great merit in his "Unaccredited Heroes" (537). The subject being the terrible scene at the pit's mouth when an explosion has happened. The crowd of anxious and excited people is very skilfully managed, and an effect of gloom is thrown into the picture by the truth with which the evening light is cast from the sky over the figures. The subject must be an extremely difficult one to paint, and Mr. Barwell has done wonders with it.

Mr. Crowe has a picture displaying considerable historic capability (457), "Defoe in the Pillory," 1703, in front of Temple Bar; which punishment he got for his pamphlet "The Shortest Way with the Dissenters." It is not, perhaps, exactly the thing to show us a great man in such a ridiculous attitude, even though he be receiving the homage of the mob in garlands of flowers and bouquets offered to his crippled hands; this is a fault in choice of subject, but the picture is very cleverly composed, vigorously painted, except the head of the hero, and, on the whole, is well descriptive of the event. Mr. Solomon's picture (471), "The Lost Found," has been suggested by the story of Mme. Girardin's play, "La Joie fait peur;" the son believed to be dead returns suddenly to the arms of his mother, an invalid, brokenhearted at the loss of her son. Were the composition less theatrical in form the artist would have been more impressive; as it is, with all the excellent work of painting, and fully appreciating the good intentions in endeavouring to give a painter's expression to what cannot be thus told, we feel that the treatment is too artificial for a scene of such emotion. Miss Solomon, the sister of the artist just named, exhibits a picture of very great merit (432), "Fugitive Royalists." The lady of a cavalier with her young son is begging safety of a Puritan mother, who would refuse it, but the thought of her own child in danger from fever leads her to give shelter to the fugitives. This picture, though very stupidly hung next to a large glaring sky of Mr. Linnell's, is painted with much technical ability, and the expression of the heads is forcible without exaggeration.

Mrs. E. M. Ward, another of our lady artists, has essayed the style of her husband the Academician in her picture (583) "Henrietta Maria in despair at the Death of Charles I.," carefully studied, and displaying remarkable facility of painting with considerable power of expression. Mrs. Benham Hay has evidently devoted herself more thoroughly to the artist-training than is the custom in England. Her picture last year of "Tobias" showed this, and now we have "The Reception of the Prodigal" (251), a work of more developed power, with the same remarkable excellences of style and colouring. Miss Osborne exhibits some rather too highly-coloured pictures of Swiss and German life, of which, perhaps, two little children carrying a branch through the snow for a Christmas tree is the best. There is a very clever picture, also, by a lady, though hung in a low corner of the north room: it is by Miss A. Walker (614), "The Hunchback," from the Arabian Nights, the figures very capably grouped and the painting excellent. By the late Mrs. H. T. Wells there is a very charming little head of a cherub with wavy hair called "A Bird of God" (661). And speaking of this reminds us of a large and highly meritorious painting by Mr. Wells, who has resigned his miniature work for oil, in which we have an admirable portrait of the artist's late wife, herself a very gifted artist. This picture is a family group of portraits treated as a picture, the party engaged after dinner in listening to some favourite author read aloud by the lady. The subject is by no means easily susceptible of the picture-que form, but Mr. Wells has succeeded wonderfully well, and there are points of excellence in the tone of the picture, especially in the management of so large a mass of white, which are rarely seen.

Mr. T. Faed, A.R.A., has never been more happy in his subject or in the painting than in No. 64—"New Wars to an Old Soldier"—a veteran of the wars of Wellington in India listening to the account of the taking of Delhi, read by his daughter, while he nurses the little grandchild. Nothing can surpass the richness of intonation in this little picture and the charming perception of the gradations and harmonies of colour pervading every detail of the picture. Mr. Faed has two other pictures of less importance and a wonderful little sketch of Harlad Dixon, the little son of Mr. Hepworth Dixon. Mr. Faed is the only painter of our school that can be compared with M. Edouard Frère for the indispensable qualities in a painter of interiors with domestic subjects, qualities of which we constantly see the great want in most artists who take up this line of painting. As an example of what to avoid in works of this kind might be mentioned No. 7, "The Lullaby," by Mr. J. N. Paton. A lady with her infant in her lap is playing it to sleep, if such a thing is possible, with a large finger-organ. But this incongruous idea might be overlooked if the picture were less hard and unfeeling than it is in every relation of colours and in general effect. It is a curious instance of how little can be done in art by mere manual dexterity.

THE WATER-COLOUR SOCIETIES.

The Old Society of Painters in Water Colours, it it have not "built its soul a lordly pleasure-house," has, at all events, enlarged and improved its gallery for exhibition. To us the light appeared somewhat too strong and glaring, and we fear that this will prove a great objection in the hot and sunny days; but it is, at all events, a fault on the right side, and one susceptible of easy alteration. The collection this year is very good, decidedly above the average, and well calculated to impress the minds of our foreign visitors with our proficiency in *aquarelle*. Of course, we must grumble, "tis my vocation, Hal!" and what we growl at now is the frightful monotony of the pictures. Water-colour artists object strongly to figure-

subjects, and cling to landscapes. This, though defensible on many grounds, may be carried to excess; but, at all events, let the exponents scatter themselves to the four points of the compass and bring us back their experiences; now, so far as we can see, every landscape-painter who has not been to Scotland has travelled through Switzerland to Italy, and the result is the crowding of the walls with repetitions of "Ben Crankum—Early Morning," only varied with views of "Corpo di Bacco on the Lago Tordini."

Among the figure-painters of course Mr. John Gilbert stands pre-eminent. Dashi, boldness, effective bits, and what is really "scambling," but which looks like brush-freedom, still, as of old, tell well under Mr. Gilbert's facile hand. No. 19, "The Rhine Wine," shows us a group of genial Rhenish sots, such as you shall see in any Wirtkshaft nowadays smacking their lips unctuously over what from their state in life must needs be a very thinbodied Rhenish. Capital the faces here; capital the accessories of glass and tobacco-pot, *crasseblable* and good; capital all save the background, where the "scambling" is in full force, and whence a face looking misty or diseased-eaten peers forth. Capital, too, is No. 109, "Rubens in his Study,"—such a swaggering, genial, braufull Cavalier, painting evidently because he could not help it, with "swell" written in his dress, his face, his attitude, his curling, wind-kissing moustaches, but with all the painter's mind shown in the arrangement of colour on his pallet—one of the most vivid bits of painting ever seen. Very good, too, but less finished, are Mr. Gilbert's pictures of "Don Quixote at Home" and "Talbot receiving the Dead Body of his Son." Mr. F. W. Topham has a singular appreciation of Irish character. His picture, "The Passing Train" (133), shows a more thorough type of the Celtic peasant—including the "Shelah" and her lover in the background, than all the "Irish boys" who have ever flourished property-shillelachs on the London stage. Mr. J. Jenkins is the apostle of prettiness; it would not be difficult for any one who had read a novel, or taken in the *Family Herald*, to frame for him or her self the story of "Who Comes?" or "One More Expected;" and it is even a sign of healthiness to report that "Good-by" is not a parting between lovers, but simply a pretty milk-girl pretending to leave a toddling child. Mr. Jenkins paints flesh admirably, and can convey expression well;—what a pity that he is not bolder and broader, and that his subjects are not more worthy a man's work! No such fault as this can be laid at the door of Mr. Carl Haag, who is manly enough in all conscience, and who is, truth to tell, one of the great ornaments of the society. Mr. Carl Haag is nothing if not Eastern this year—no more Dutch boors, drinking-vessels, and uplifted legs in belling breeches—Oriental now to a degree.

First there is a large life-size head of a Bedouin of the Harwasah tribe, a fierce-looking fellow enough, capitably coloured, red and hot as the sun under which he lies. Next, "The Remains of Baalbek," very David-Roberts-ish, and "The Departure from Palmyra," the starting of a caravan, all capitably painted. Mr. Alfred D. Fripp evidently aims at being the Hook of water colour. In "Waiting for the Tide," his fisher-boy surrounded by lobster-pots and perched on a rock, is essentially after Hook's manner, and especially so in its excellent colour and truth to nature. "Making Ready for Sea" is equally good; but Mr. Fripp's rural subjects certainly lack inspiration. His brother, Mr. G. A. Fripp, has some good landscapes—notably "The Harbour at Tenby," very soft and delicate in tint, and some Thames views at Streightly. Mr. F. Smallfield's "St. Francis Preaching among the Birds" is very clever, full of quaint expression and earnestness, a subject chosen and handled altogether out of the common grooves.

And now to fall into the landscape rack. Mr. Drisson, Mr. Davidson, and Mr. J. D. Harding are exactly what they were last year, and, life granted, will be next—very pleasant painters, with all their old mannerisms. Still does Mr. Duncan send us marvellous seascapes—this year a capital "Gale" and a view of "Saweed-gathering—Guernsey," with a most lovely sky. Still does Mr. Nash paint mediæval halls, and Mr. S. Read, capital as a draughtsman but weak as a colourist, reproduce D. Roberts's latest manner in the "Interior of the Dom Lubek." Mr. Alfred Newton's "Mountain Scene—Ardgour, Argyshire," is a memorial to Gunter and a model of ice-cream. David Cox's son shows good promise—a "View of the East Cliff, Hastings," and "An Avenue in Surrey" being remarkable; the first for its dash, the second for its repose. Mr. Brittan Willis, one of the latest-elected members of the society, does it infinite credit. His cattle are charming, and his atmospheric effects natural and truthful. There are no pictures in the gallery bearing such an oil-like finish as those of Mr. Willis. Candidly, Mr. Birket Foster disappoints us: on wood he is unapproachable, but in the *aquarelle* his fancy seems to become cramped, he loses much of his delicacy, and is even hard and cold.

Among the contributors to the new society Mr. Edmund Warren will probably be the most popular among those who look for taking subjects. Still retaining his love for sunlit avenues with shade—reflection, marvellously true, he this year exhibits his power for broad landscape and aerial distance. Of this novel style the "Barley Field" is, perhaps, the best example. The line of the song, "The old man is beaten by the boy," holds true in the case of the Warrens, for Mr. H. Warren, with his Oriental subject, acquits himself by no means so satisfactorily as the son does. Mr. Louis Haghe's Flemish Interiors are as excellent as ever. Sharp, crisp, and finished in its architectural detail, take "The Card Trick," with its mediæval soldiers grouped around. Its only fault lies in its colouring. Mr. Carl Werner's picture of "Garibaldi's Landing" is crude, and will attract attention from its subject rather than its treatment. Mrs. Elizabeth Murray's "Spanish Cha coal-burners" is overcharged and preposterous in the highest degree. It is a pity that with such undoubted powers, evidenced even in her worst works, this lady should give way to such tricks of taste. Mr. Absolon exhibits a decided improvement, being far less finikin than usual. His "Match—Lago Maggiore," is an excellent work of art, the light from the match with which a pipe is being lit contrasting admirably with the pure moonlight. A sunset view of "Hastings" is also commendable. Messrs. Vacher and Richardson contribute their usual quota of blue sea, Mrs. Duffield her usual supply of flowers, and Mr. Harrison Weir his game and poultry—all of course more or less cleverly painted.

THE HERZEGOVINA.

It will be remembered by our readers that we have already engraved several scenes representing the events of the war in Montenegro and Albania. Since our last descriptions events have assumed a more pacific aspect, or, at least, seemed to be awaiting those diplomatic negotiations which had lately been instituted.

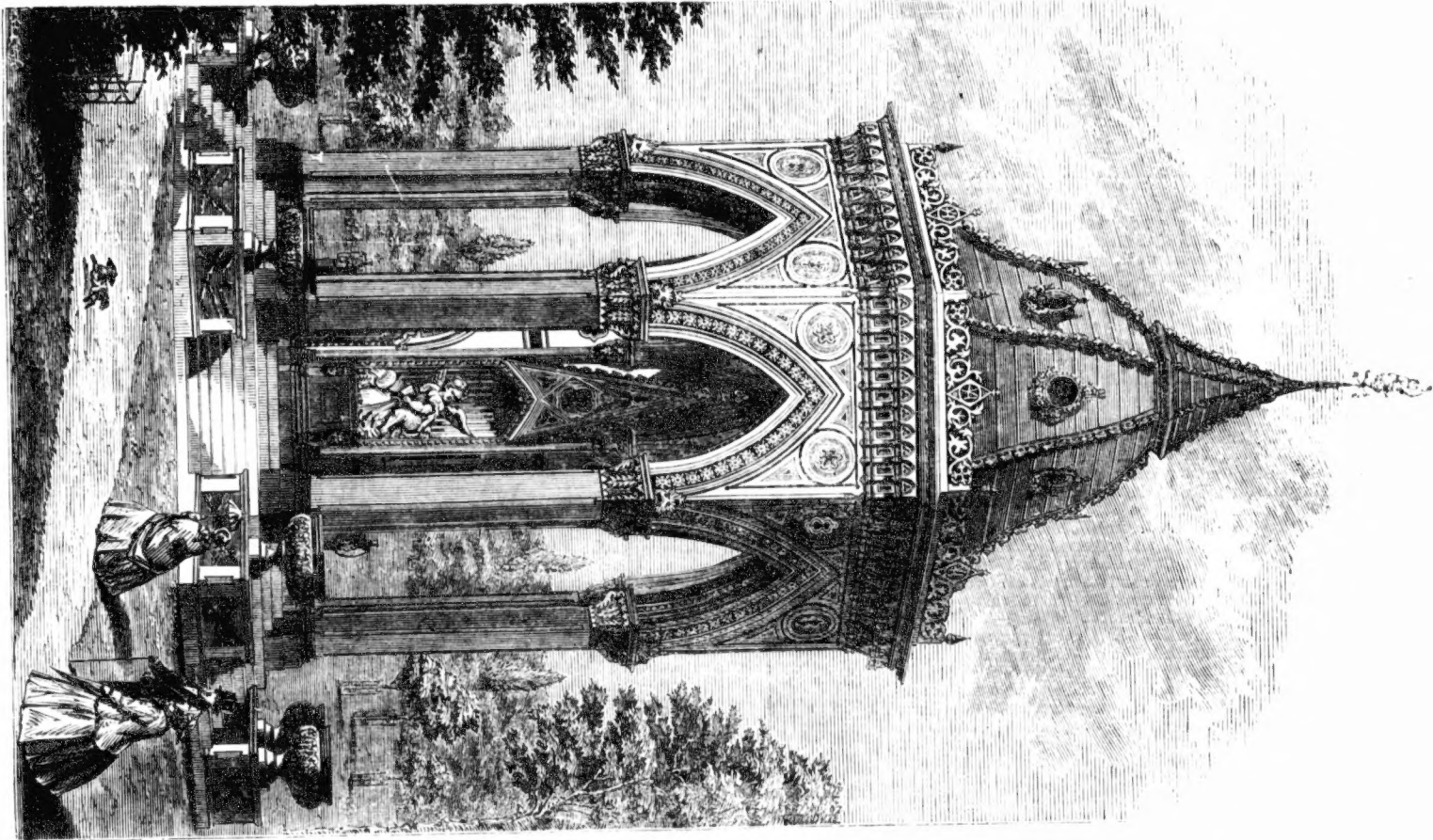
Having been defeated in several encounters terminating in the engagement at Duga, where Dervish Pacha lost about 2500 men and the insurgents 500 to 600, the army of the Sultan has been obliged, instead of marching onward, to take up a defensive position. The Commander-in-Chief, who is now said to be at Scutari, has been compelled, as the result of these several encounters, to organise a great concentrative movement upon Crisak, in Herzegovina; he had scarcely made his arrangements, however, when a new engagement with Uncoiti again cost Dervish Pacha thirty officers and more than 300 men.

It is one of the episodes of this disastrous battle which is represented in our Engraving. Several of the habitations near the mountain passes of Duga are surrounded by rudely constructed observatories built of rough timber, which serve during the hot summer months as an evening resort for the members of the various families. During the present war these additional summer rooms became of real importance, since they enabled the mountaineers more fully to overlook the plain, where they could at once discover the movements of the enemy, and by their aid it is probable that the movements of Omer Pacha were discerned and means taken at once for their frustration.

Turkish accounts state that a force of 8000 regular and irregular troops had attacked 3000 Montenegrins near the Lake of Scutari on the 6th. The Montenegrins were repulsed, after a two hours' combat, with considerable loss.



MOUNTAINEERS OF VUCOTI, IN THE HERZEGOVINA, SIGNALING THE CONCENTRATION OF OMER PACHA'S TROOPS UPON CRISTAK.



MISS BURDETT COUTTS' NEW DRINKING-FOUNTAIN IN VICTORIA PARK.

THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND.

THE visit of the King and Queen of Holland to Paris has shared with the Japanese Embassy the interest of the French people, and indeed the presence of William III. and Sophie Frederique Mathilde may well be regarded as a popular event, since they enjoy the respect not only of their own people but of those of other countries who have heard of the kindly feeling which has always been maintained between them and their subjects. On a former occasion we published a Portrait of his Majesty, as well as some scenes in which he took an active part during the lamentable inundations that caused so much distress in his dominions. We are able this week to present our



THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYER AND PIERSON.)

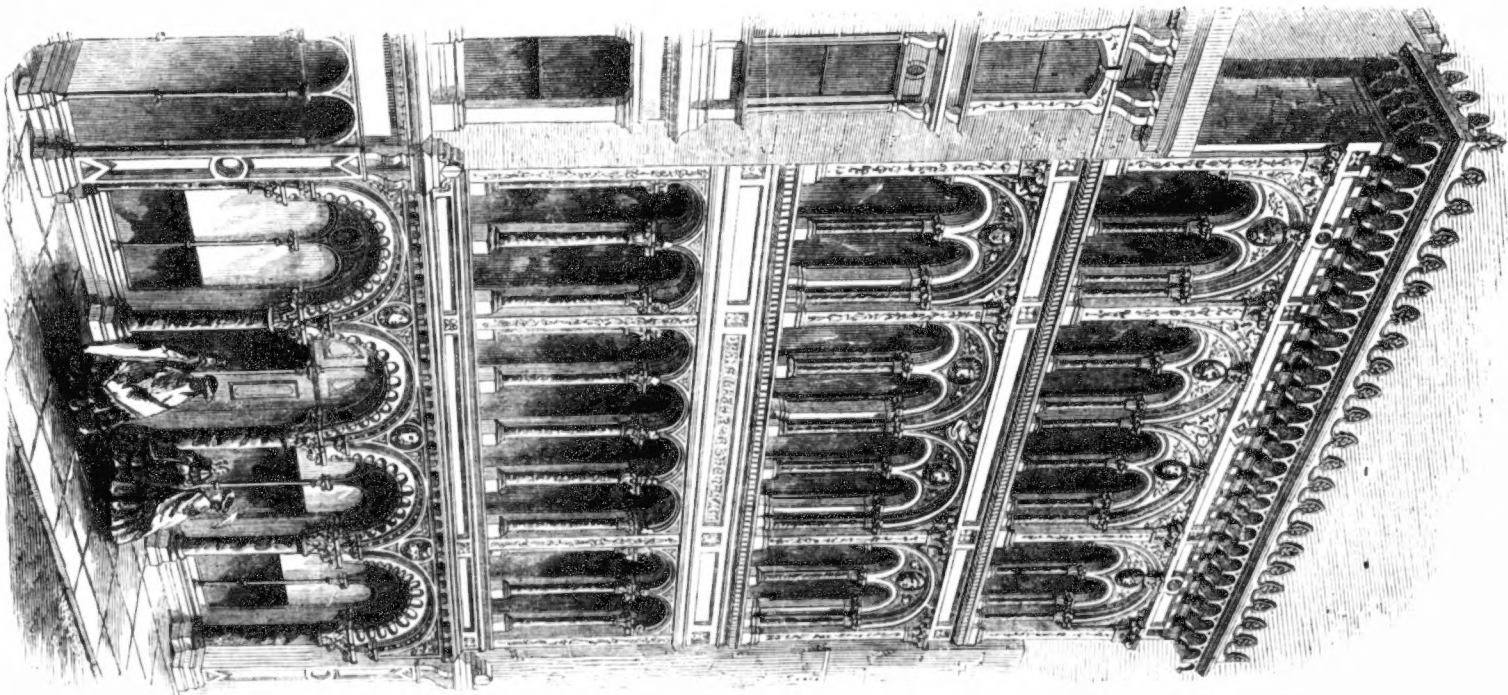
readers with an Engraving of the Queen, who has always seconded and frequently initiated those sentiments which have bound him to his subjects. Her Majesty, who is the daughter of William I. of Wurtemberg, was born in 1818, and in 1839 was married to the King of Holland. Throughout her life she has been remarkable for those somewhat rare accomplishments which are to be obtained only by the study of what are called the exact sciences; but, although these pursuits have given her an intelligence and grasp of thought not often numbered amongst feminine attributes, they have left undiminished that deep womanly sympathy and kindness which have so long distinguished both her and her husband.

The Queen, who has just left Paris for Stuttgart, awaited the arrival of

his Majesty at Compiegne, where she is said to have been greatly delighted with the souvenirs of those historical events with which she was already familiar.

THE NEW VICTORIA PARK DRINKING-FOUNTAIN.

We this week present our readers with a view of a very fine drinking-fountain erected in Victoria Park, and which has been presented to the people by Miss Burdett Coutts, whose liberality we have so often had the pleasure of recording. The building is of an octagonal form, of 13 ft. diameter; but it is approached on its eight sides by flights of steps 3 ft. 6 in.



THE NEW BAYSWATER ATHENÆUM.

high, giving a breadth at base of 10 ft. There are granite pedestals and basins on four of the external sides, and in recesses above them are four prettily-sculptured small figures, executed in Sicilian marble, holding ewers from which the water is obtained. The building is generally enriched with panels of green and red marble and much ornamentation and tracery. A richly-moulded doorway leads to the interior of the octagon, so that access to and control of the conduit water-pipes can always be obtained. The building rises to a height of 57 ft. from its base, having a dome-shaped leaden roof, the bottom of which is concealed by a perforated parapet, supported by a bracket cornice similarly enriched, which is again supported by an arcade of eight arches rising from piers of red Aberdeen granite, with sculptured cups. The total cost

of the building is computed at £5000. Mr. H. A. Darbishire, the architect, has been very successful in combining elegance of design with strength and durability; so that, while the comfort and convenience of the public are provided for, the structure will be an enduring ornament to the park.

The fountain was opened on Saturday last, and has been hailed as a great boon by the numerous frequenters of the east-end "lung" of London.

BAYSWATER ATHENÆUM AND CLUB.

WE this week publish a view of the Bayswater Athenæum and Club—an institution of great enterprise and pretension, considering that it is almost on the outskirts of the metropolis, which its position as adjacent to one of the most wealthy and fashionable parts of London alone can warrant or in any way account for its almost unprecedented success; indeed, we might look far and wide to find anything of its kind at all to be compared to it in its comprehensive attractions and utility, possessing as it does the combination of a first-class literary institution with all the comforts and elegancies of a club. The lecture-hall in the rear of the building, popularly known as the "Westbourne Hall," is now since the enlargement a most spacious room, capable of accommodating upwards of six hundred persons, and has the most modern and improved method of ventilation and lighting. The latter is accomplished by means of brass corona gaseliers of the most lustrous burners, each burner consisting of a ring of fine jets, which, uniting round a central button, produces a brilliant flame, approaching the intensity of the bude light. The seats have carved ends, and are so arranged on the slightly and gradually inclined floor as to allow of the lecturer being seen distinctly from any part. A gallery at the entrance end of the hall, with a well-designed front, affords accommodation for a large audience or an orchestra. Numerous lectures and entertainments are given gratuitously to the members, the rooms devoted to whose use are entirely private. The subscriptions are as follows:—Gentlemen, £2 2s.; ladies, £1 11s. 6d. annually, which entitles members to all the privileges of the athenæum and library, &c., furnished with all the leading publications of the day. Subscribers have the privilege of taking home one set of books at a time, and may change them as often as they desire. There are at the present time 360 members, and the institution is supported by the elite of the neighbourhood. Our Engraving of the elevation will suffice to convey a correct idea of the architectural pretensions of the building, which is in the Early Renaissance style, built entirely of freestone from Bath. The design is bold and vigorous, and does credit to Messrs. Newman and Billing, the architects. The internal arrangements are quite in character with the external beauty of the erection.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 185.

GREAT ATTRACTIONS.

THE two most powerful attractions in the House of Commons are, first, a struggle for office; second, a personal encounter. A struggle for place brings down every man who can possibly move or be moved. When such an event occurs the three kingdoms, and indeed all Europe, are scoured for members, regardless of labour or cost. A mere personal encounter is not quite so attractive; but, next to a tussle for place, it draws more than anything else. On Thursday a set-to between Disraeli and Gladstone was expected. There had been no formal announcement of the fight; but Rumour, with her hundred tongues, had confidently announced in the clubs and through the columns of the press that a "mill" was to come off; and at an early hour the House was full, every gallery was crammed to repletion, and scores of anxious strangers were waiting in the lobby to get in. The event did not, however, turn out exactly as Rumour had prophesied, for the set-to was not between Dizzy and Gladstone, but between the Caucasian and old Pam. Gladstone's opponent was on this occasion a much less formidable foe—to wit, his once private secretary, Sir Stafford Northcote.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE, THE COMING MAN.

In these sketches we have never given more than a passing notice of Sir Stafford Northcote. This was an omission which we will now proceed to rectify, for Sir Stafford Northcote is a rising man—means, indeed, if the Fates be propitious, to mount to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, and is now sedulously climbing upwards to that bright official tableland by every available means, and as earnestly and carefully as an Alpine adventurer, with alpenstock in hand, mounts to some dizzy height which he has never reached before. Sir Stafford came first into Parliament in 1855, for the borough of Dudley, and held the seat until 1857. At the general election of that year he did not, however, again attempt Dudley. The reason probably was that Mr. Henry Brinsley Sheridan was in the field as a Radical candidate; and, though Sir Stafford had the Earl's support, he would not venture to front the people whom in formidable numbers Mr. Sheridan had gathered around him. But Sir Stafford was not long out of Parliament, for in 1858 there came a vacancy for Stamford, and the hon. Baronet found no difficulty in getting elected for that more Conservative place. Before Sir Stafford got into Parliament he was a man well known, and of some mark. He had taken a first class in classics at Oxford, he had been private secretary to Mr. Gladstone at the Board of Trade, and had publicly interested himself in educational and other cognate matters; indeed, so well was he thought of by the Conservative chiefs that they made him, in 1859, financial secretary to the Treasury. And there can be no doubt that within a certain range Sir Stafford has considerable abilities; he is, for example, a capital arithmetician, and if a man were wanted to manage a bank, or even to preside over the Bank of England, there could be no question that he would be fitted for the post. His friends say that he is a great financier, meaning thereby that he is competent to take charge of the finances of the nation as Chancellor of the Exchequer. But we doubt this; provisionally we should decide that he is not. He is clever, acute, and accurate, but in our humble opinion he is narrow of mind, incapable of taking a comprehensive view of a subject, and therefore not fitted to be Chancellor of the Exchequer. A notable writer speaks of certain fly-critics who settle on a capital or a cornice and discuss its merits, but cannot form an idea of the whole building; and this, we think, is an apt description of Sir Stafford. Like the bee, he could, no doubt, gather the honey very well, and store it cleverly and economically; but could he by judicious horticulture, as our present Chancellor of the Exchequer does, increase the produce? We imagine not. However, we shall probably be able to judge of his abilities more decisively soon; for report says he will certainly be Chancellor of the Exchequer in the next Conservative Government. As a speaker Sir Stafford is not attractive. In the first place, he does not discuss subjects in an attractive way. He is microscopically minute—wearisome, in his criticisms; he never gives utterance to enlarged sentiments; he is ever pulling to pieces and never building up, and he cannot appreciate the bold financial policy of the times. And besides all this, though he is voluble, never at a loss for words, has lately become much more cool and self-possessed than he used to be, and has taken to oratorical action, boldly looking his opponent in the face and enforcing his utterances with appropriate gesture: his voice is harsh and brassy, and his delivery monotonous. And so it comes to pass that what with the dryness of his matter, the harshness of his voice, and the monotony of his tones, though he generally commands silence, he cannot interest or even hold the House. If strangers wish to discover Sir Stafford in the House they may easily find him. He sits in close proximity to Disraeli. In stature he is short; he has a bushy swan-coloured beard, hair of the same hue, and always wears spectacles.

PRELIMINARY SKIRMISH.

The preparatory fight between Sir Stafford and Mr. Gladstone did not excite much interest. Indeed, when the honourable Baronet arose to attack his old master, a visible buzz of disappointment ran through the House; and numbers got up and wandered away to the lobbies and the library to write their letters, and some even went home, thinking that the promised fight between Dizzy and the Chan-

cellor was off. Nor was the honourable Baronet's speech a success. It was a mere repetition of what we have had often before; and as there was a visible feeling of disappointment when he rose, so were there equally visible signs of relief when he sat down. Mr. Forster followed Sir Stafford, but his interposition was not well timed, and the hon. member seemed, after he had risen, to feel this, for he did not speak by any means with his usual clearness and force. He, however, said one good thing, which was cordially cheered by the Liberal members of the House and deserves to be repeated. Sir Stafford Northcote had charged Mr. Gladstone with having produced discontent at Manchester, and to this charge Mr. Forster made the following reply:—"Nothing that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said could make the Manchester men discontented, for they well knew that what he and his great mentor, Sir R. Peel, had done in opening up fresh supplies of food and fresh sources of employment was the one bright spot which they could look upon with pleasure in their present disastrous circumstances."

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

Is it worth while to dwell at length upon Gladstone's reply to Sir Stafford? We think not. Suffice it, then, to say, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been threatened with an attack from a much more redoubtable foe. He had been led to expect another fierce onslaught from the great Caucasian pugilist himself, and had trained and armed accordingly for the fight. He felt, therefore, small difficulty in settling this little matter with his old pupil. Indeed, it was obvious from his tone and manner that he deemed it mere child's play. He was in the highest possible spirits. He played with his puny opponent as a flyfisher plays with a trout securely hooked. In short, the Chancellor *in esse* made the Chancellor *in posse* look miserably small. Surely it is indiscreet for Sir Stafford to encounter Gladstone: it may show his courage, but hardly his wisdom. It will be time enough to measure himself with one of such gigantic proportions some years hence, when he shall have tried his hand and tested his abilities at the Treasury.

THE ASIAN MYSTERY.

Will there be a fight or not? This was the question when Mr. Forster rose, and somehow—we know not how—it got whispered about that there would be no fight. Gladstone would answer Sir Stafford Northcote, the Revenue Bill would pass its second reading, and all would be over; and under this impression, as the witching time for dinner had nearly arrived, many of the members, and not a few strangers, bolted away. And great was their mortification when they came to learn that they had lost the best part of the night's performance. When the telegraph spread the news through the clubs that Disraeli was up, several members left or hurriedly bolted their dinners, and hastened back to the House as fast as hansoms could bring them.

And now, what shall we say to Disraeli's marvellous speech—surely one of the most remarkable harangues which this clever, accomplished, but strange, incomprehensible, inscrutable man ever delivered? Shall we condense it and give its substance to our readers? Want of space forbids. Shall we analyse and criticise it? We shrink from the arduous task. Shall we point out its object and aim? This would be altogether futile. For this speech, as to its object and aim, was when it was delivered, and is now, an insoluble problem—an enigma as profound as that of the Sphinx, or as the Asian mystery which Disraeli dwells upon with such awe in his books. All we can attempt is to photograph the appearance of the House during the delivery of this incomprehensible oration. And this was singular, and in all its circumstances, we believe, unique. The Conservative party, then, during almost the whole of the two hours which Disraeli occupied, seemed to be in a state of blank astonishment. They did not cheer, they expressed no dissent; they appeared to be simply bewildered. Nor is this surprising. Dissent they could hardly openly express, for the speaker was their leader; and how could they cheer sentiments which were directly in the teeth of their principles and contradicted all their traditions? The Irish Roman Catholics who cluster below the gangway, when Disraeli discoursed about the Pope and the French occupation of Rome, broke forth now and then into faint applause; but it was only faint and half-hearted, for what did he mean? Was he for the Pope or against him? It was impossible to discover which through that halo of words in which Disraeli, as is his manner, cleverly contrived to envelop his thoughts. When he spoke of "bloated armaments" and a diplomatic conference with the French Emperor to obtain a mutual disarming, of course the Radicals were delighted, and applauded to the echo. But the Whigs behind the Government, like the Conservatives in their front, were silent, except that now and then a sort of chuckling laugh broke forth, as if they were delighted with and hoped to make political capital out of confusion worse confounded which the speaker was creating. This was the scene, then, which we had before us when the great Caucasian waved that wonder-working wand of his over the House, and here we must leave the matter.

PAM JUVENESCENT.

"The Lord hath delivered him into my hands!" exclaimed Cromwell in a pious ecstasy when he saw old Leslie, the Scotch commander, descend from his heights at Berwick and lay himself open to attack. Lord Palmerston is no Puritan, and therefore no such pious exclamation escaped his lips as he sat watching his opponent and noting his strategical blunders; but he was equally alive with Old Noll to the advantages which his foe was giving him, and equally prepared when the time should come to pursue them with energy and success. When Disraeli sat down the noble Lord sprang to his feet—yes, literally so—with as much agility and briskness as if he had been forty years old instead of seventy-eight, as he is. And never did this marvellous old man speak with more life, jollity, fun, and energy than he did on that Thursday night. And how sagaciously did he seize the salient points of his opponent's studied harangue, clear them of their rhetorical mist, and turn his guns upon himself! Indeed, the speech was an ovation from beginning to end. Cheers broke forth at the conclusion of every sentence, and every now and then there were bursts of hearty laughter so loud and long-continued that the House seemed for the time more like a theatre during the performance of a broad farce than a hall of legislation. And here let it be noted that the Conservatives cheered this speech and joined in the laughter as loudly as the Liberals. Whilst Disraeli, their leader, was speaking, they were dumb; but when Lord Palmerston, the leader of their opponents, spoke, they cheered him to the echo. This is strange; but so it was. What it intimates or augurs we leave our readers to speculate upon as best they may. Some weeks back report said that Palmerston was miserably ill; and when he came to the House, and men saw his pale face, they exclaimed, "Ah! the old man is breaking up;" and we ourselves had our misgivings. But lo! he seems now to have renewed his youth, like the eagle. At all events, on Thursday night there were no signs of "breaking up."

AFRAY BETWEEN THE CITY OF LONDON MILITIA AND THE POLICE IN FINCHBURY SQUARE.—On Sunday last, soon after one o'clock, a terrific onslaught was made on the G division of the metropolitan police and several constables of the City force by a large body of the City of London Militia, who assailed the constables with their waterbells, the brass clupe of which inflicted serious wounds, rendering the sufferers incapable to perform duty. On the dismissal of the corps after attending Divine service a constable of the G division apprehended a private belonging to the regiment as he left the barracks in the City-road; his comrades at once rushed to the rescue, and he was quickly set free; a few more constables arriving, he was recaptured, when the militiamen cried out, "Off with your belts!" The suggestion was instantly acted upon, and a murderous attack was made upon the policemen, who sustained considerable injuries. Fortunately a reinforcement from the Old-street station and from the City police-station, arrived, and the tables were turned. At this juncture the officers and non-commissioned officers of the militia arrived, and with the assistance of the best conducted men and the police drove the disturbers into the barrack-square, but not before the ring-leaders of the disgraceful affray were captured and lodged in the police-station. The police are seriously injured, nor did the militiamen escape unscathed, many having been wounded by the staves of the police.

IT IS CALCULATED that no less than 2000 high ecclesiastics, of all European nations, will meet at Rome on the occasion of the canonisation of the Japanese martyrs. Spain alone contributes twenty-two.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 9.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

NOXIOUS VAPOURS.

The Earl of DERBY moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the injury resulting from noxious vapours evolved in certain manufacturing processes and into the state of the law relating thereto. The noble Lord divided noxious vapours into three classes—those which are simply offensive; those which, besides being offensive, are detrimental to animal life; and others not injurious to animal life, but detrimental to vegetable life—and he undertook to show, firstly, that the amount of injury inflicted by their diffusion was great; secondly, that it was preventable; and, thirdly, that the law as it stands does not afford a remedy. He then gave illustrations of the effect produced in the neighbourhood of various alkali-works in Lancashire, especially in the manufacture of soda, in which muriatic acid gas is given off in large volumes. Crops and trees were destroyed, and hedgerows and timber, with which the country had been covered within his memory, had disappeared. Within two or three miles of St. Helen's there was now hardly a tree standing, and the district had an air of desolation unknown out of the "black country." He was prepared to show cases in which corn in bloom had been destroyed to the extent of one-third of the entire crop in the course of a single night. Pastures were also so much affected by it that butchers refused to send sheep to graze in the neighbourhood. Many of the poorer class of tenants made a considerable portion of their rent by the produce of their orchards, but now, so great had the destruction been, that barely a fruit-tree remained, to the great injury of these poor persons. He did not wish the House to legislate on his statements, but he submitted that he had presented facts which justified further inquiry with a view to a remedy.

Earl GRANVILLE, on the part of the Government, assented to the appointment of a Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

M. MERCIER'S VISIT TO RICHMOND.

Mr. LAYARD stated, in answer to a question by Sir J. Duke, that, as far as her Majesty's Government were informed, M. Mercier, the French Minister at Washington, went to Richmond without any instructions whatever from his own Government; and that his visit had been attended with no political results.

THE DISTRESS IN LANCASHIRE.

Mr. A. EGERTON called attention to the extent of destitution in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire, and inquired of the President of the Poor-law Board whether he was satisfied with the steps which had been taken by the local authorities to administer relief to the destitute in those places? The hon. member referred to the increase of destitution in Manchester, Preston, Wigan, and other towns, where cotton forms the great staple of manufacture; and, having entered into some details with reference to the stocks of that product in hand, expressed his apprehension that, unless peace was restored in America, the most lamentable consequences must ensue. In conclusion, he inquired of the Secretary of State for India whether any reductions had been decided on in the Indian tariff?

Sir C. WOOD, in answer to the last question, said he had only received the information contained in the published telegram.

Mr. POTTER professed his belief that there would be no substantial improvement in the cotton trade until we got cotton from America.

Mr. VILLIERS said that some months ago, apprehending the pressure which must be felt if the scarcity of cotton continued, he had addressed a circular to every union connected by business with the American trade, intimating that in all probability it would become necessary to make provision for an unusual recurrence of distress. In the large majority of cases he had received answers stating that the guardians were ready to meet any emergency that might arise by the ordinary means. He was happy to say that the returns forwarded weekly to the Poor-law Department showed that there had been some diminution of distress during the latter weeks of April, although he was quite ready to admit that very great privations were endured with admirable fortitude by a very large number of persons. There were, however, ample resources in the public rates for the relief of distress even if it should continue to spread to a greater extent. The rateable value of the property in Lancashire was £7,298,000 per annum, while the expenditure on account of the poor at the present scale was but £678,000 a year, which was at the rate of but 1s. 10d. in the pound, and much less than that levied in the county of Suffolk or in the town of Sheffield. The Government would, however, send experienced persons to the destitute districts to inquire into the mode of administering relief and to bring into harmonious action the efforts of voluntary benevolence.

Mr. BRIGHT said the distress in Lancashire was growing worse and worse. All they could do was to mitigate it. He advocated the concession of the greatest liberty to the local guardians and the appointment of local committees. Every one knew that in Lancashire there was great patience and energy amongst the people to assist themselves; while, on the other hand, there was great wealth and equal liberality amongst those who possessed it; and he had the strongest confidence possible that if this state of things should go on for many months longer the county would find itself competent to take care of its own affairs without sending a list round to other parts of the country. The hon. member strongly deprecated political predictions as to the time and manner of the termination of the war in America, and attributed loss and injury to the interests of Lancashire to a recent speech of Earl Russell, which checked the trade of a whole district, and caused a fall of from seven to ten per cent in the price of yarns and cloth.

Mr. Hibbert, Lord Hartington, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Gilpin, and Sir M. Farquhar subsequently spoke, and the subject dropped.

The House went into Committee of Supply, and passed some votes in the education estimate.

MONDAY, MAY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

DISTRESS IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY brought forward the subject of the prevailing distress in Lancashire, and, having paid a tribute to the admirable patience with which it was borne by the people, expressed his opinion that they would prefer any relief they might receive to come to them through the medium of the poor law rather than from private charitable contributions. He therefore asked if the Government was prepared to advise anything in the shape of a relaxation of the rigid rules of the poor law, more especially in respect to the labour test?

Lord OVERSTONE spoke in a similar sense.

Earl GRANVILLE said it was the intention of the Government that while the regulations of the poor law were confirmed to they should be made as elastic as possible in order to meet all demands made upon it.

The Earl of DERBY approved of the course of the Government in relying on the operation of the poor law, and not declaring any intention of asking for grants of public money.

The subject then dropped.

On the motion of Lord Lyveden, the Register of Voters Bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ROADWAY THROUGH HYDE PARK.

Mr. COWPER, in answer to Mr. Allcock, said it was not intended to allow hackney cabs to pass through Hyde Park in order to relieve the traffic of Park-lane.

CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE BILL.

On going into Committee on the Customs and Inland Revenue Bill, a discussion arose upon the form of the bill, which was objected to as depriving the House of its right to object to each item of taxation. When the House had gone into Committee on clause 8, which raised the question of licences to private brewers, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that, as it had been intimated by representatives of brewers in that House that they did not consider the imposition of licences on private brewing as essential to just dealing towards themselves, he should withdraw the proposition.

The clause was negatived.

On clause 9, which relates to occasional licences to sell excisable liquors at fairs, &c., the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved an amendment by which no such licences could be issued except with the consent of the magistrates of the petty sessions of the district, and providing that no liquors be sold except between sunrise and sunset.

These amendments were agreed to after discussion.

On the clause as amended being put, Sir W. JOLLIFFE moved its omission. On a division the clause was retained by 116 to 63.

On clause 12, which related to the hop duty, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that he would yield to remonstrances which had been made, and allow a drawback of the duty to the extent of 7s. a cwt., and the clause as amended was agreed to.

On clause 29, relating to the income tax, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER proposed an amendment by which a new assessment would take place under schedule D for the present year, which was agreed to.

A long discussion, introduced by Sir H. Willoughby, on the subject of the assessment of the income tax, and also on the system of appeals and surcharges, took place, at the end of which the clause was agreed to.

The other clauses were gone through, and the House resumed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Corrupt Practices at Elections Bill was read a second time, as were the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, the Lunacy (Scotland) Bill, the Weights and Measures (Ireland) Act (1860) Amendment Bill.

The Movable Property (Scotland) Bill and the Public Works and Harbours Acts Amendment Bill passed through Committee.

NEW BILLS.

Leave was given to Mr. Adderley to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the giving of aid to discharged prisoners, and to the Lord Advocate to remove doubts concerning, and to amend the law relating to, the private estates of her Majesty, her heirs and successors.

TUESDAY, MAY 13.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICES ABOLITION BILL.

Lord TAUNTON moved the second reading of the Qualification for Offices Abolition Bill, the object of which is to repeal the declaration required to be taken by various municipal officers in lieu of the sacramental test abolished by the act of 1828. He admitted that the measure was principally called for by Protestant Dissenters; but although that was the case, he did not believe that it would have the slightest effect in impairing or weakening the security of the Established Church.

The Duke of MAREBOROUGH moved the rejection of the bill, contending that there was no hardship in the taking of these oaths, which did not press severely on any one, when it was found that they were often not taken, and the neglect condoned by the bills of indemnity.

On a division the motion was rejected by 87 to 55. The bill is consequently lost.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COLES'S CUPOLA SHIPS.

In reply to questions from Lord Robert Montague and Admiral Walcott, Lord CLARENCE PAGET stated that some months ago the shield invented by Captain Coles was subjected to a severe test from the fire of various guns of heavy calibre, and was considerably shaken. The shield had since been repaired under the personal direction of Captain Coles, with a view of subjecting it to a still heavier fire. He (Lord Clarence) presumed, therefore, that Captain Coles had without reflection written a letter which had appeared in one of the public prints that morning, complaining that the Admiralty were carrying on their experiments without consulting him.

THE INCOME TAX.

Mr. HUBBARD then submitted the following resolution respecting the principle of an income tax:—"That the incidence of an income tax should not fall upon capital or property, and that, when applied to the annual products of invested property, it should fall only upon the net income arising therefrom; and that the net profits, gains, or salaries of persons and partnerships (not being public companies) engaged in any trade, farm, manufacture, profession, or salaried employment should be subject, previous to assessment, to such an abatement as may equitably adjust the burthen thrown upon intelligence and skill as compared with property." The hon. gentleman, in a speech of great length, stated his proposition on the ground that the income tax, as at present levied, was so unequal and unjust as to be utterly in violation of the true principle of an income tax; and he argued that a remedy was to be found only in making such an abatement on earnings derived from industrious pursuits as might be regarded as savings, and thus adjust the burden thrown upon skill and intelligence as compared with real property.

Mr. CRAWFORD having seconded the motion,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER called upon the House not to consider the superficial appearances of a case of this kind, or be led away by plausible appeals, but to regard the substantial interests involved—namely, the interests of the State and the Treasury in the first place; and, above all, the interests of that social harmony which the adoption of such a motion would fatally disturb. He was therefore prepared to meet the proposal with a negative. The plan of the hon. member had been rejected and discredited by the Select Committee nominated last Session; and, although he (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) was prepared to admit that the case of small incomes required the early consideration of Parliament, the scheme now proposed would entail a loss of £2,600,000 upon the revenue of the current year, a sum which it would be impossible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to supply without increasing the tax at least threepence in the pound on other contributors.

On a division, the motion was rejected by a majority of 99 to 62.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CHURCH RATES.

Sir J. TRELAWNY moved the second reading of his bill for the abolition of church rates.

Mr. BUXTON seconded the motion in a speech which was directly in favour of the amendment of which Mr. Sotheron-Estcourt had given notice, and which evoked laughter and ironical cheers from all parts of the House.

Mr. SOTHERON-ESTCOURT then moved his amendment to the following effect:—"That it is unjust and inexpedient to abolish the ancient customary right, exercised from time immemorial by the ratepayers of every parish in England, to raise by rate amongst themselves the sums required for the repair of their church, until some other provision shall have been made by Parliament for the discharge of those obligations to which, by custom or statute, the churchwardens, on the part of the parish, are liable."

Sir G. O. LEWIS declared that he despaired of any practical settlement of the question whilst the law was allowed to remain in its present state. With regard to the amendment, he held that it was inconsistent partly with fact and partly with law, and consequently he would vote against it.

Mr. MACDONOUGH complained that the Government brought forward no measure on this subject. He argued that it was no case for the abolition of church rates that a few parishes out of 12,000 dissented from their imposition.

Mr. R. MILLS supported the bill.

Mr. BRIGHT deprecated the tone in which the friends of church rates dealt with the question, and accused them of acting as political Churchmen and making the subject a party question. He implored the House not to allow another year to pass without settling this long-vested question, but to make this Session famous for being that in which a source of long-standing irritation was allayed, and in which was embodied in English law one of the plainest principles of gospel morality—"Do unto others as you yourselves would wish others to do unto you."

Sir J. FAKINGTON joined heartily in the desire which had been expressed to see this question settled, and he conceived that it was the duty of the Government to undertake that settlement. He retorted on Mr. Bright the taunt of the supporters of church rates being political Churchmen by saying that their opponents were essentially political Dissenters, and quoted from writings of Nonconformists to show that they were hostile to the Church in that sense.

Mr. DILLWYN supported the bill.

Mr. DISRAELI had always been of opinion that no settlement of the question could be advantageously undertaken except by a Government. This church-rate question was a popular and in a certain sense a political question, and was to be settled by the usual popular process of a majority, and the minority could no more set up a grievance than an elector who was represented by a member in whose opinions he, as one of a minority, did not agree.

On a division, the motion for the second reading was lost by 287 to 286.

A division was then taken on Mr. S. Estcourt's amendment, and it was carried by 288 to 271.

THURSDAY, MAY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Register of Voters Bill having been amended, on the motion of the Earl of Carnarvon, passed through Committee.

PARLIAMENTARY RIFLE-MATCH.

Earl GRANVILLE called attention to an article in the Times of that morning respecting a reported rifle-match between certain leading men of the House of Commons and some of their Lordships, to come off at Wimbledon on the 6th of July next, and asked the Lord Chancellor whether he could throw any light upon the matter.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, amid some laughter, said it was true that he had received a challenge from the Speaker of the House of Commons on behalf of himself and certain other members, and that he had ventured on behalf of their Lordships' House to accept it, believing that their Lordships would be ready to meet the other House in the lists of an honourable rivalry. He expressed a hope that their Lordships would be prepared to justify him in doing so.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

In answer to several questions from Mr. Buxton, Mr. LAYARD said that a vessel under American colours had been at Liverpool which was ascertained to be a slave. During the time the vessel was at Liverpool no suspicion was entertained about it. It was only after it had left that it was ascertained to be a slave; but, through information which was transmitted by the Government to the African coast, a full cargo was seized, about five hundred slaves. He regretted to say that a considerable slave trade had sprung up between the Portuguese settlements and the island of St. Thomas, and it was said that they were freetraders. Her Majesty's Government had strong reason to suppose that they were slave-traders, and they had made strong representations to the Portuguese Government, and he trusted the King would take measures for putting a stop to it. As to the slave trade in Cuba, he was sorry to say that Spain was carrying on that detestable trade. He hoped that the Spanish Government was not aware of it, and her Majesty's Government had sent representations on the subject. As to the slave trade on the east coast of Africa, he had to say that Lord Cowley had instructions to make representations to the French Government. Inquiries had been instituted, but, on account of the great distance, no answer had been received up to the present time.

THE GAME LAWS.

Mr. D. SEYMOUR asked the Secretary of State for the Home department whether his attention had been called to the case of a child lately fined £5 11s., with the alternative of three months' imprisonment, by a bench of magistrates at Maidstone?

Sir G. GREY said he had referred the statement which had appeared in the newspapers to the magistrates, from whom he had received a report. There was no doubt of the nature of the offence committed, and the fine was imposed not so much on the child, who was acting under the instigation of his parents, who had been convicted twenty-four times for a breach of the game laws. On the following day the mother of the child paid the fine, and said that if it had been three times as much she should have been ready to pay it.

The House having gone into Committee upon the Merchant Shipping Acts, &c., Amendment Bill, the room in which the night was occupied with the consideration of its clauses.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE CLASSIFICATION AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE EXHIBITION.

Of all the difficulties with which exhibitions of this nature have to contend, perhaps the greatest is that of classification. There are no end of theories on the subject, but even at the present time the science of classification may be said to be in its infancy. A first step was taken in 1851, when the grand division proposed by the late Prince Consort of "raw produce," "machinery," "manufactures," and "fine arts" was suggested and adopted. Upon this basis an arrangement of thirty classes was effected. We have advanced a step further this year, and the thirty classes have grown into thirty-six, still leaving much to be done in order to attain to a system that will be free from many serious objections. The four grand sections originally proposed are still adhered to. The first embraces mining, quarrying, metallurgy, and mineral products, chemical substances and products, and pharmaceutical processes; substances used for food, including wines; and animal and vegetable substances used in manufactures. The subdivision in this section is not great, the number of classes being only four. The second section comprehends thirteen classes, ranging over railway plant, including locomotive engines and carriages; carriages not connected with rail or tram roads; manufacturing machines and tools; machinery in general; agricultural and horticultural machines and implements; civil engineering, architectural and building contrivances; military engineering, armour and accoutrements, ordnance and smallarms; naval architecture and ships' tackle; philosophical instruments, and processes depending upon their use; photographic apparatus and photography; horological instruments; musical instruments; and surgical instruments and appliances. Nineteen classes are included in the third section, and they comprise cotton, flax, and hemp; silk and velvet; woollen and worsted, including mixed fabrics generally; carpets, woven, spun, felted; and laid fabrics, when shown as specimens of printing or dyeing; tapestry, lace, and embroidery; skins, furs, feathers, and hair; leather, including saddlery and harness; articles of clothing; paper, stationery; printing and bookbinding; educational works and appliances; furniture and upholstery, including paperhangings and papier-mâché; iron and general hardware; steel and cutlery; works in precious metals and their imitations, and jewellery; glass, pottery; and any manufactures not included in any of the specified classes. So far the precedent of the exhibition of 1851 has been mainly although not servilely followed. There are four classes for fine arts, and these include—architectural models and designs; paintings in oil and water colours and drawings; art designs for manufactures; sculpture by various processes, models, dissection, and intaglios, fine art in repoussée, chasing; and, finally, etchings and engravings.

The general arrangement of the building consists of nearly an equal division of the whole area between the United Kingdom and our colonies, and foreign countries—the former occupying the eastern half and the latter the western, thus exactly reversing the order adopted in 1851. The total number of exhibitors is about 24,000, and of these the estimated number of foreign exhibitors is 16,000.

We propose to give a resumé of the contents of the Exhibition, following the order of arrangement adopted in the catalogue, and giving special prominence to such features as, from their importance and interest, seem to merit it.

BRITISH MINERALS.

The display on the part of the British exhibitors in class 1 is highly satisfactory. The mineral wealth of the country is well represented. There is not, perhaps, so complete a collection of iron ores as the industry of Mr. S. Blackwell brought together in 1851, yet most of the new discoveries, and they are many and important, find a place. The iron ores of Weardale, Cleveland, and West Riding, of Lincolnshire, the Midland Counties, and the best examples from Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall form an interesting series. Copper ores, tin, zinc, lead, and coal specimens are abundant. There is scarcely a useful seam from which an example has not been sent. The building and ornamental stones of the kingdom are fully represented. In metallurgy the examples of iron are numerous, and, at the same time, as nearly all varieties of pig iron are to be found in the exhibition, there are some of the most remarkable examples of rolled iron that have yet been shown. Rails from 60ft. to upwards of 100ft. in length, without a weld; bars of remarkable size and length; sheets of iron of most unusual dimensions; and armour-plates which have resisted the battering power of Armstrong's guns, are there; with cranks, one weighing above twenty-five tons, and beams of singular size and strength, which prove the capabilities of British forges. There are specimens of gold from Devonshire and Wales; monolithic obelisks of granite; a serpentine obelisk, 15ft. high; Derbyshire marbles, principally black; and fluted-spar ornaments, the celebrated fluted-spar being nearly exhausted. The new metal, aluminium, is also exhibited.

CHEMICALS.

The chemical and pharmaceutical section of the exhibition, class 2, can boast of a collection which has never been equalled in variety and excellence. Amongst the exhibitors are over two hundred of the first manufacturers in the country, and hardly a name of any eminence is missing in any branch of chemical manufacture, from magenta and borax down to matches and blacking. The larger and coarser kinds of chemicals, such as alum, soda, copperas, the prussiates, &c., in the manufacture of which this country has always been pre-eminent, are here as a matter of course. Some splendid specimens of salts, in a high state of purity, are exhibited by many well-known firms, as well as the more delicate materials of absolute purity for laboratory use.

FOOD PRODUCTS.

Class 3, consisting of food products, including beverages and tobacco, is well represented by several well-known firms. Many, however, have hung back, fearing that although the general public were well contented to consume these substances in the ordinary way, yet they might not care to see them ranged on counters as specimens for exhibition. A pig cured whole forms a prominent object in this department. Alsopp and Bass, and other great brewers, strive for mastery not only in the quality of their beer, but in the ingenious way they have each adopted for showing this beverage.

ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE SUBSTANCES USED IN MANUFACTURES.

Class 4 consists of animal and vegetable substances used in manufactures. The large tallow and soap series of products are well represented. The perfumery stalls, with their tasteful decorations, are attractive for lady visitors, and there are several scent fountains in full play. Specimens of ivory turning, wax flowers, gutta percha, indiarubber, and ebonite, fishing-rods and tackle, canes and sticks, combs, glue and gelatine, cocoanut matting, magnificent veneers of large size, and elegant basket-work, are in this class, and there is a fine collection of the fleeces made by the Royal Agricultural Society.

CARRIAGES.

Class 6—carriages not connected with rail or tramroads—includes every possible variety of carriage from a Bath chair to a velocipede, and from a four-in-hand to a perambulator or a self-propelling bathing-machine. There are barouches, landaus, single and double broughams, eugenies, sociables, and phaetons, broughams under 7cwt., stanholes, phaetons waggons, "dirophas," and one ambitious vehicle which is "a barouche, sociable, coach, and landau" all in one. The show of carriages is under the picture-galleries, fronting the Cromwell-road.

MACHINEERY.

A hum of whirling wheels attracts us as we stand in the western transept, and this sound—the "music of machinery in motion," as a scientific contemporary calls it—draws us irresistibly into the adjacent annexe, where classes 5 to 8 are arranged. It is not in perfect order yet, but already there is such a collection of machinery, only counting that completely erected, as has never till now been brought together in any part of the world. Engines are there of every class, from the marine

giants of 800-horse power to little models in shining gun metal—from the express locomotive, with driving wheels that stand a foot higher than one's hat, to that little North Wales coal-engine that we once heard described as swung up in mid-air by a steam crane—from that great double-cylinder blowing engine of the Lilleshall Company to little steeple-engines driving their flywheels at ninety or a hundred revolutions a minute. Machine tools are there of all kinds and sizes, from slotting-machines, awful in their slow restless strength, to small lathes for turning ornamental wooden knick-knacks. Textile machinery of every sort is there, from calico to carpet looms. It must not be supposed that everything in the western annexe is in motion. The large marine engines exhibited by Messrs. Maudslays and Messrs. Penn are at rest, to begin with. Of course, it would be impossible to supply steam enough to keep them going in the ordinary way, but an example set by a French exhibitor might very well be followed. A pair of 400-horse-power marine engines, from the Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée, Marseilles, is kept going by a little donkey-engine set up beside it and actuating a worm-wheel on the screw-shaft. The large engine is thus kept moving slowly, and the action parts may be more readily criticised than if they were at rest. The locomotive engines cannot but be left idle on their rails, but this is an additional reason for setting in motion all stationary engines. The magnificent metal-working machine-tools exhibited by Whitworth and other makers are at present motionless. As it would be impossible to give Mr. Penn steam enough to keep his engine going, it would be impossible to give Mr. Whitworth sufficient shaft-power to drive his shaping and drilling machines as they are driven in the workshop, but it would be very easy to keep the tools slowly moving, so that the action of their slides and cutters might be more readily understood by semi-scientific visitors, while one or two of them might be set to bite pieces of soft metal, to make their purposes still more intelligible.

The looms, from the fact that most of them are at work, seem to attract most visitors at present. From them proceeds that noise we noticed even in the transept—a noise that, when you stand amongst them, becomes a din that almost bewilders the senses. To watch

the shuttle merrily
Go flashing through the loom,

in obedience to the lightning-swift jerks of the picking sticks, and the woven stuff being slowly drawn out of that complicated maze of noisily moving parts—a mere mass of threads on one side of the comb, a perfect fabric on the other—is to watch a triumph of intellect and industry allied that excites something more than admiration—something almost like emotion. Perhaps on nothing more than on a loom has been expended that slow and patient thought without which no really great invention is ever brought to maturity. Not one—not fifty minds, have sufficed to produce the complex finished machine before us. Each part has been gradually improved in the course of years, but now that the essence of so many inventions has been obtained, a complete machine is before us which seems endowed with something more than human intelligence, for no human eye, far more no human hand, can follow its rapid movements. The shuttle flies backwards and forwards so swiftly that it is only visible as a flash of light glancing amongst the moving threads, and yet, for every time that it passes from left to right, or from right to left, it weaves its thread over and under alternately amongst many hundred others. Look at the broad band of parallel threads, now that the loom has been stopped for a moment that the attendant may supply its shuttle with a new bobbin, and think of the labour which it would be to pass a thread by hand in and out alternately through the whole breadth. It would take you half an hour, perhaps, and you would slip a dozen threads even then. Yet, now the loom is started once more by a turn of the clutch handle, the whole starts again into resounding life and activity, and ten, twenty, thirty times already that flash of light has passed through the maze, and work has been done which would take a man's hand a day. If this may not be called the poetry of motion, what may?

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

The display of agricultural implements in class 9, which is placed in the long covered and uncovered eastern annexe, is substantially the annual exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society. This society has held twenty-three annual exhibitions in different towns from 1839 to 1861 inclusive, and always with a hopeful increase of exhibitors and visitors. Its great display in Hyde Park, in 1861, was eminently successful; satisfactory to visitors and useful to agriculture.

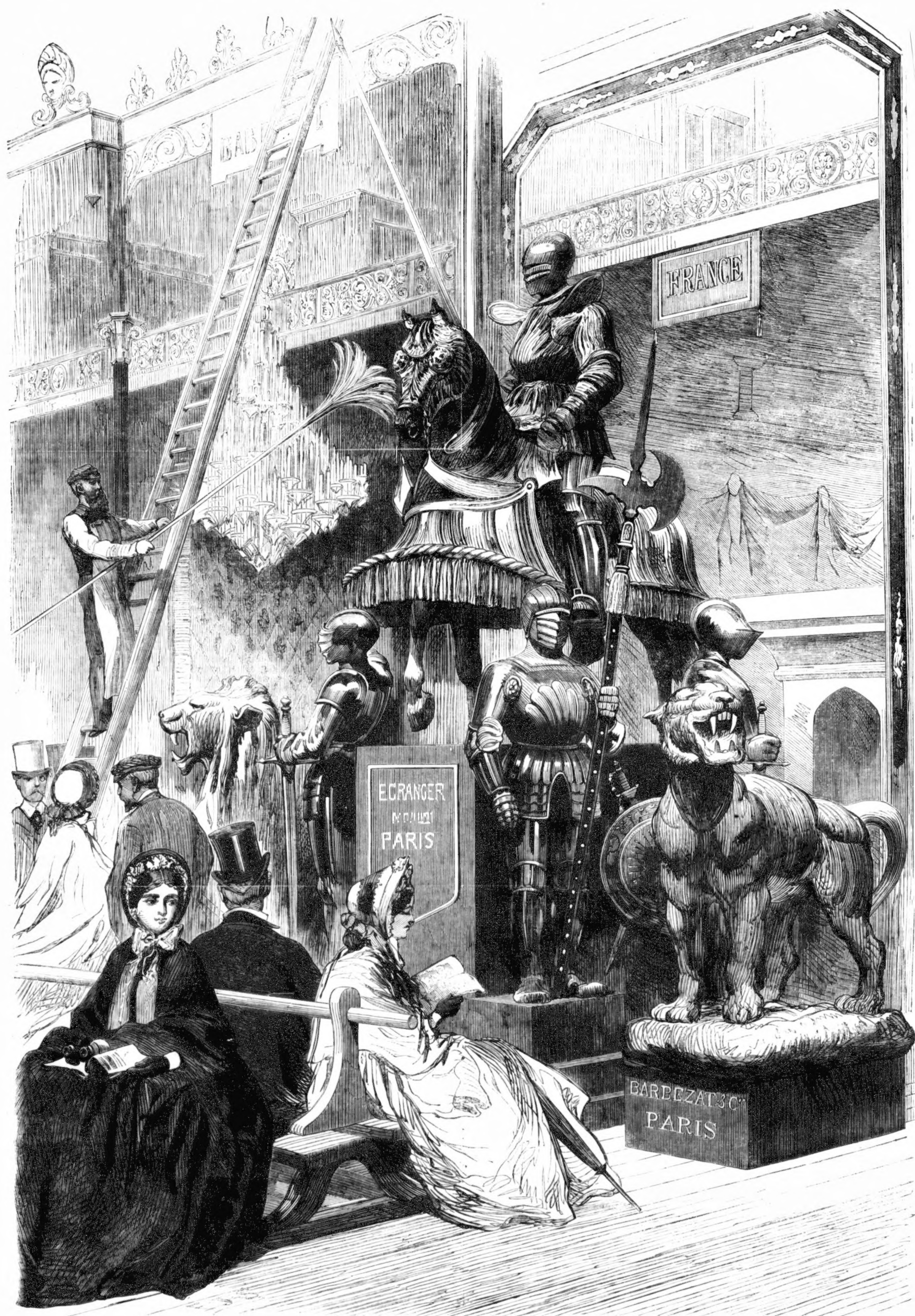
In the agricultural section gardening and farming are jointly represented; and the collection of implements and models includes horticultural building, wire netting, fencing, and gardening apparatus. There will be found in the building examples of most of the different systems that have lately been before the public, and these will be best understood by an examination of the respective exhibitors' stands, which contain in some instances not only the implements themselves, but also models and diagrams illustrating the manner of working them.

CIVIL ENGINEERING APPLIANCES.

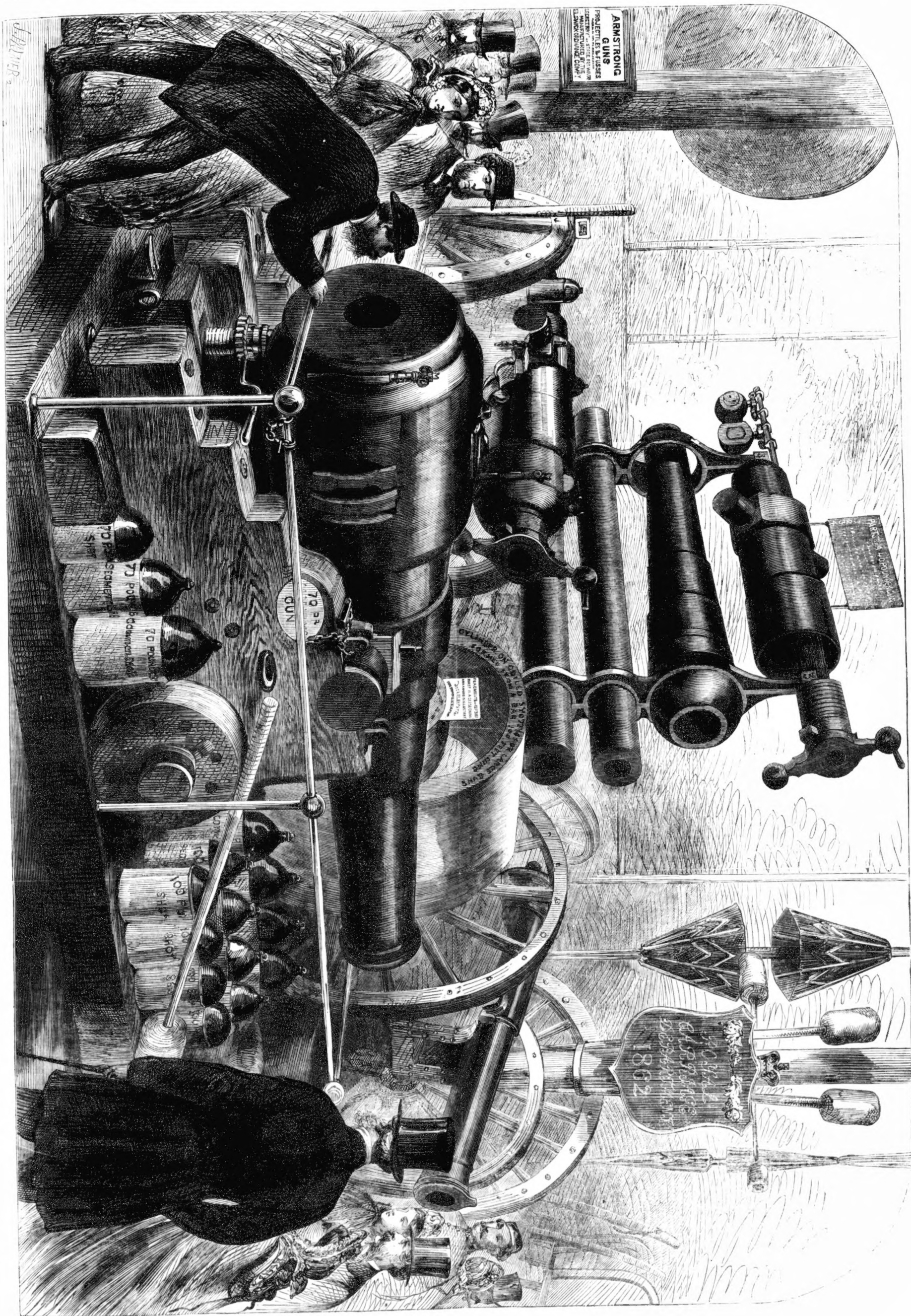
In class 10 (civil engineering) there are exhibited furnaces, iron and paper pipes, drainage contrivances, baths, and other sanitary inventions; bridges, aqueducts, viaducts, models of docks and harbours, diving apparatus, models of iron buildings, and improved cottage roofs and window sashes; ornamental building contrivances in marble, granite, slate, and other materials; stones, bricks, cement, tiles, and pipes, including a fine collection of Shropshire ornamental tilework; contrivances for preserving wood, warehouse machinery, fire escapes, contrivances for ventilation, smoke curing, and improved filters and gas-measuring apparatus. Many useful novelties are exhibited in this department; and amongst the most interesting models are those of the Boyne Viaduct (illustrating the principle of lattice construction), the great Saltash Viaduct, and Rennie's docks at Cadiz.

ORDNANCE AND OTHER IMPLEMENTS OF WAR.

There are no subjects at the present moment attracting so much attention on both sides of the Atlantic as those connected with ordnance for naval warfare, ships of war, and armour-plating. And if, by watching the operations of a nation engaged in actual warfare, we may derive valuable hints in naval construction, so by studying the varied and interesting collection of modern ordnance in the International Exhibition, we may form some idea of the great attention that has been given to the subject, both by the Government and by private individuals and firms. The portion of the building set apart for classes 11 and 12 (military engineering, ordnance, armour, &c.), is near the eastern dome on the south side of the British nave. The most prominent feature in this department is the Armstrong trophy from the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich; and, whatever be the merits or defects of the Armstrong gun, the workmanship displayed in this unique and tastefully-arranged collection of the several parts of the weapon during the various stages of manufacture, does great credit to the ingenuity and skill of British workmen. The trophy may be said to resemble a Christmas-tree, around the base of which and clustering upon its branches, are seen—from the rough bar to the highly-finished metal—the various parts of this complicated gun, and the fine tools and gauges used in its manufacture. A broken bar of the rough iron lying at the base shows that the raw material out of which the gun is made is of the very best quality; the next piece in order shows the bar twisted into a spiral form; this has been done upon a mandril suitable in size to the bore required, and the iron now has the shape of a twisted hollow tube, such as the threads of a corkscrew would resemble if pressed close together. The next form shows that this twisted hollow tube has been welded together; then specimens are shown bored, rifled, and turned. Towards the breech this tube is strengthened by others similarly manufactured, shrunk on, and welded over it again and again until the required thickness and strength are obtained. Up to this point the gun differs but little from any wrought-iron cannon; and to form a tolerably correct idea of a breech-loading Armstrong gun, let us take for example an ordinary cannon, and continue the bore clean through the breech till we have a hollow tube open at both ends. The shot and charge may



ANCIENT ARMOUR AND IRON CASTINGS IN THE FRENCH COURT AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.



GUN TROPHY AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

now be passed into the barrel at the breech: but as it must be prevented from expending the force of the charge in a wrong direction, a stopper is required to close up this opening in the breech, and this is the weak point in the Armstrong gun—for to admit this stopper, plug, or ventpiece, an opening has to be made clean through the section of the gun, greatly in excess of the size of the barrel or of the chamber, thus cutting away the strength of the gun where most required. The breech of the gun, against which this plug is to bear, is formed like the seat of an ordinary conic valve, and, to keep the plug up against this seat, that portion of the gun behind the plug is bored out to an increased size in order to receive a nut which keeps the plug in its place; this nut is also bored out the same size of the chamber of the gun, so that the shot and charge passes through it when the plug is removed. With one exception, the Armstrong breech-loading guns in the collection are of this description. That exception is a 70-pounder wedge gun, to which is attached a very ingenious piece of mechanism which keeps the touch-hole closed until the wedge is properly adjusted; so that, even in the hands of inexperienced gunners, there is little danger of accidents occurring in working the gun. Among the numerous items that adorn the trophy are models of the solid shot used for testing the gun. That for 110-pounders is about 8ft. in length and weighs 1000lb., and the shot for testing 12-pounders weighs 120lb. One of the guns shown has been subjected to eighty-seven of these proof-shots, and another to 391, and both guns are stated to be uninjured. As an evidence of the excellence of the material employed, and the perfection with which it is put together, a shaving is shown (which was cut from one of the welded coiled cylinders) which measures 430ft. in the curl, and the probable total length of which is 1462ft.; and over a sample of cuttings, evidently the produce of the hammer and chisel, wielded by a strong arm and steady hand, is the motto "Workmen are known by their chips." We give an Engraving showing the Armstrong gun trophy supplied by the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich.

The Whitworth Ordnance Company exhibit six pieces—a 1-pounder muzzle-loading rifled cannon, mounted; a 6-pounder muzzle-loading, and a 6-pounder breech-loading gun, a 12-pounder brass rifled field-piece, a 32-pounder rifled ship's cannon, and a 70-pounder; with an assortment of projectiles of various weights, solid shot and shell, from 1-pounder to 70-pounder. They also exhibit one of the flat-fronted projectiles which were fired through the armour plates and side of the *Trusty* during the official trials at the Nore. This projectile, though slightly shattered at the point of contact with the plate, and shortened or stove up by the blow, is still whole. The bore of the Whitworth cannon is hexagonal in the cross section, and the rifle pitch is equal to twenty times the diameter of the bore. The solid projectiles are usually cast and then planed. One man, it is said, will mould 200 of the 12lb. shot per day, or plane the same number in the same time. We believe the average ranges obtained from the 12-pounder rifled Whitworth gun, with a 12lb. shot and 1½lb. of powder, are at point blank 380 yards; at 1 degree elevation, 900 yards; at 10 degrees, 4500 yards; and at 35 degrees 10,000 yards, or nearly six English miles. The charge of powder usually employed is equal to one-sixth of the weight of the shot. The proprietors of this gun claim for it great penetrating power, and for their flat-fronted projectiles the capability of retaining this power only slightly impaired after passing a considerable distance through water. The drill of the gunners with the rifled muzzle-loading Whitworth is similar to that practised for the ordinary smooth-bore cannon.

The heaviest piece of ordnance in the exhibition is the "Prince Alfred Gun," a muzzle-loading rifled cannon of 10-inch bore, manufactured by the Mersey Steel and Iron Company. This gun is 12ft. long, 3ft. in diameter at the breech, and weighs 10 tons 15 cwt. Before rifling it carried a spherical shot of 136lb weight, and will now carry an elongated shot of from 500lb. to 600lb. Alongside of this gun is shown a plate of wrought iron, 4½in. thick, which was placed as a target and backed with eighteen inches of solid oak, and broken by a shot weighing 136lb. impelled by charges of from 20lb. to 30lb. of powder. The shattered and ruined plates speak volumes in favour of the destructive power of the gun. The same firm were the first who broke heavy plates of iron with ordnance. In May, 1856, they broke a wrought-iron plate of 4½in. thick (the first ever broken) by a spherical shot of 282lbs., with a charge of 25lb. of powder, from the 13-inch "Horsfall monster gun." We have been shown a diagram of the comparative ranges of the 68-pounder smooth bore, the Armstrong 110-pounder, and the monster gun, from which we extract the following:—"Point blank range of the 68 pounder, 310 yards; the Armstrong, 310 yards; the monster, 600 yards. At three degrees of elevation:—The 68-pounder, 1470 yards; the Armstrong, 1325 yards; the Monster, 1800 yards. At seven degrees and a half: The 68-pounder, 2430 yards; the Armstrong, 2570 yards; the Monster, 2980 yards—the initial velocity being uniformly in favour of the Monster gun." The same firm exhibits a breech-loading rifled gun, 9ft. long, mounted on a field carriage.

Besides those we have enumerated there is a Blakely 200-pounder pivot-gun, manufactured by Messrs. Fawcett, Preston, and Co., of Liverpool. Mr. Lancaster exhibits a 100-pounder oval-bore cannon, which has fired 604 rounds at angles over twelve degrees' elevation. And Mr. P. M. Parsons, of London, exhibits an ingenious breech-loading cannon of small calibre. These, and the great variety of shot, shell, gun-carriages, models of ships, rifles, and other small arms, &c., in these sections, are well worthy of a close and careful inspection.

THE RUSSIAN COURT.

The Russian display is a superb one. Foremost in prominence among the objects which it contains are a vase, column, and candelabra in jasper, from the Imperial cabinet. The material of the candelabra is grey, in some portions beautifully clouded, and contrasting admirably with the surrounding ormolu branches. The shape is unimpeachable, and the workmanship is of the highest finish. The column, which is fluted and has an ormolu capital, is darker in colour, and the vase is of a still deeper tint. The latter is truly a princely object. Carved out of a block of vast proportions, and of a material of extreme hardness, the execution is as perfect as if it were wrought in alabaster, and its form strikingly combines massiveness and grace. There is also a charming vase in white porcelain, very graceful in shape, with reliefs the design and execution of which are alike highly commendable; and beside this stands an elaborately tall flower-vase in rock crystal, which is a very fine specimen of the material, though glass would produce a much more brilliant effect. Two admirable vases are shown, from the Imperial manufactory at St. Petersburg, which have been presented by the Russian Government to our own Royal Society. The models are faultless, and the treatment of the decoration is characterised by the purest taste. There is a portrait of John Locke on the one and of Inigo Jones on the other, both painted with consummate skill. An ebony casket, with clusters of various fruits in mosaic in relief, will attract deserved admiration. The colours are very soft and natural, and the groupings are excellent. There is a tall flower-stand in ormolu and lapis lazuli, good in design and containing fine specimens of this precious stone, and beside it is a small table with a wreath of convolvulus and ears of corn on a lapis lazuli ground, and a charming cluster of lilies and forget-me-nots in the centre in pietra dura. The flowers are admirably done, but the lilac ground does not show them to the best advantage. There are two gems in this collection which will especially awaken the delight of connoisseurs. One is a table, the carved frame and legs of which are very fine, while the pietra-dura slab is absolute perfection. On a black ground, slightly relieved by inlaid white lines, are clusters of fruit so rich and luscious to look at that they absolutely make the mouth water. The central bunch of purple grapes is a masterpiece, and the surrounding garlands of red and white cherries have a natural translucency which may be fairly regarded as a triumph of art in the rivalling of nature. The leaves are exquisitely shaded, and the entire work has a mellowness beyond all praise. It would be well, however, if it could be more advantageously placed, for just now the light strikes upon it in such a manner that there are only certain

points, and those not the most convenient for inspection, from which its beauties can be fully seen. Equally beautiful, but in another style, is the ebony and ormolu cabinet, with pietra-dura panels, which stands on another side of the trophy. The colours of the flowers—principally jonquils, convolvulus, and fuschias—are deliciously bright and pure, and on small tablets below are forget-me-nots of rare delicacy and beauty.

Our illustration represents the Imperial candelabra and vases, together with the inlaid cabinet or casket referred to.

THE BRONZES, ETC., IN THE FRENCH COURT.

The French Court is now a powerful focus of attraction. The display of jewellery, gold and silver smith's work, porcelain and bronze, is chiefly inspected. Among the exhibition of bronze art-work a pair of gilt vases of the Louis XIV. style, technically called *rocaille*, are admirable specimens of this peculiar genre, both rich and graceful in effect. The figures of the boys escaping in affright from a dragon, forming the group which surmounts the vases, are gracefully designed, and full of life and expression. A pair of bronzes by Hébert, representing, one Faust and Margaret, and the other Romeo and Juliet, are excellent specimens of casting. The figures are well treated, especially those of Margaret and Romeo, and the costume is managed without stiffness. A pair of figures representing Paul and Virginia are also very gracefully modelled, especially the heads, which, by the way, are repeated in a pair of busts, and show thus the grace and purity of their design to much better advantage. A figure of Columbus, seated and surrounded with nautical accessories, is remarkable for its vigour and simplicity: the attitude and the expression of the countenance are both admirably expressive of calm and dignified confidence. A companion figure of Galileo poring over a globe is nearly as good. There is also in this collection a very pretty clock of Algerian or onyx marble, surmounted by a well-modelled figure of Sappho in a soft and easy attitude. The same firm have in another part of the French Court a very remarkable display of zinc castings coated with bronze, and approaching in appearance, as well as in execution, with wonderful closeness to the beautiful metal for which they are so economical a substitute. A very fine group, life-size, of boys with a swan, is scarcely to be distinguished from bronze. Two figures of the same metal, silvered, with gilt ornaments, and representing two "varlets" in the costume of the pages in the Maximilian procession, are remarkable for the swaggering boldness of their attitudes and the care and finish of every detail in the costume. Some very fine castings in iron are likewise to be seen among the specimens of fine-art metalwork in the French Court. By far the most extensive display of cast bronzes in the French Court is that of Barbédienne, who stands pre-eminent in his profession. His platform is laden with copies of all sizes of many of the finest works of sculpture, ancient and modern, remarkable equally for their fidelity to the originals in form and proportion and in every minute detail of expression. The small copies are produced by a mechanical process of reduction. A very beautiful cabinet is shown by this exhibitor, of ebony, ornamented with decorations of plated bronze, and in the Renaissance style, of most elaborate workmanship. Copies of the graceful figures sculptured by Jean Goujon for the Fontaine des Innocents are worked into the design. No attempt, however, has been made to alter or adapt them to their position, but they are plain and faithful reproductions of the originals, and it is no mean praise to the design and workmanship of the rest to say that they form with it a perfectly harmonious whole. The value of this cabinet is, however, not all external; on its shelves are a number of articles both precious and curious, and among them specimens of the finest and lightest bronze castings that have ever yet been executed, in the shape of diminutive copies of Maved's bust of Napoleon, and Jean Goujon's Diane de Poitiers. When these are taken in the hand they create a sensation of surprise at their unexpected lightness, scarcely less than that of a porcelain figure of equal size. Casts in which so thin a coat of metal is employed are far more perfect than any others can be, the shrinking of the metal in cooling causing distortion in proportion to its thickness. These light bronze castings and a pair of vases, nearly three feet in height—magnificent specimens of *croisné* enamel in imitation of the Chinese, and quite up to the mark of their best works as regards the colours and design of the enamel, while the form and setting of the vases are far superior in gracefulness and taste—these two examples, we say, of art manufacture will be without their match within their separate departments in the whole exhibition.

There are also in the French Court some very beautiful and perfect reproductions of ancient armour executed by G. E. Granger, of Paris, and exhibited by the Emperor. These, with a group of lions in iron, the work of Birbazet and Co., of Paris, form the subject of one of our Engravings this week.

In our next Number we shall resume our sketch of the contents of the various sections, accompanying it by illustrations and special descriptions of such objects as particularly merit selection for that purpose.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1862.

THE POOR LAW AND HARD TIMES.

WHEN we last week offered a few observations upon the distress in Lancashire, the facts of the case were not so well before the public as they have been placed subsequently. We owe to a Mr. Finnigan, a Lancashire labourer who was elected spokesman of a deputation from a large number of his class to the Manchester Board of Guardians, some information as to the manner in which the industrial classes are affected by the present distress in the manufacturing districts.

Mr. Finnigan we take to be a fair type of the best of his class. He expounds what he has to say in sentences which, for their construction, might well be the practised composition of a journalist instead of the extempore outpourings of an operative. The only fault we can find with his harangue, from a critical point of view, is that it is too oratorical—it smacks too much of the platform and the discussion-forum. When we find a distressed person professing a "duty to combat the principles which you, Sir, have laid down," and going on generally in that style, it requires a strong amount of sympathy to induce us to look through a column and a half of type to get at his facts. But that sympathy Mr. Finnigan can command; and of all his oration the portion which appears to us to demand the utmost respect and attention consists of a few words slipped in by way of an apologetic addendum. He says:—"I sold every vestige of furniture, I pawned every article of clothing,

I parted with that which hurt my feelings far more—a library of books that at one time I would not have given for £100, and of which I have not one now—I parted with all sooner than I would come here and place myself in the ranks of those whom I knew to have been paupers for years."

These few manly words, rightly considered, form the strongest argument ever yet adduced against the poor laws and their administration. They include the whole subject, like a well-selected text. They tell, in the first place, the extreme repugnance of the needy to avail themselves of the aid of the poor-law system. Secondly, they indicate the loss to the community by the utterly-mistaken system of political economy on which the poor law is based.

Here is a labourer possessed of such a degree of intelligence as leads him to take a pride in his books. He is forced to part with them, from no personal imprudence or even by family misfortune. The necessity is purely political, and he falls under it as an Englishman. Every one knows the class of persons who alone take benefit from such cases of distress. The honest, humble wealth acquired by the working man falls a prey at a mere nominal price to the Jew and the broker. The man has his bed and bedding, a roof to cover him, and home comforts for himself and his family. All he wants is mere bread and a few shillings for rent to tide him over the hard times, after which he can repay all, and be, as before, a productive, honourable member of society. But the poor-law speaks thus: "You shall not have a single penny nor a mouthful of food until you have utterly disposed of every stick and scrap about you, and are willing to give up even the garments you wear. When this happens, you may receive relief. The relief consists in your being forced to perform hard, unremunerative labour, such as cracking stones or picking tarry hemp, in being separated from your wife and from your children, in being fed upon detestable gruel, and such other horrible viands as poor-law guardians may consider economical and proper, in being exposed to the brutal bullyings of ruffianly underlings, in having your personal liberty restrained, and, in short, of suffering the privation of all that can render life tolerable. When you leave us your girls will be turned out with cropped hair, and you will have to recommence life, not, as heretofore, a young operative, but as a pauper, crushed in spirit and debilitated in constitution. You will be back again to us before long. The poverty of the father will be visited upon the children, who will have less repugnance to a pauper life, having had their infantile minds already moulded to it, and being, moreover, consoled on next making application at the poorhouse by the recollection that their father did so before them. The country will thus lose, not one only, but a whole family of its most useful members. Instead of gaining by them, it will have to support them to a period indefinite. Ten shillings a week, for a few months at most, might tide you over your difficulties, keep your roof over your head, and conserve you until you might gratefully repay all advances, and once again resume your position of usefulness, independence, and comfort. Our system prefers to render you and yours a burden, a loss, and a degradation for years, and to bury you when you die of accumulated misery and humiliation."

This is the actual, incontrovertible state of the case. It is idle to talk of private charity, even of that extended kind which can always be secured by an appeal to the public through the journals. Individual cases may be met in this way upon occasion. If Mr. Finnigan wants certain books he can have them, no doubt. But what would be the value of a library ten times as good as that which he has lost compared with that which he had earned by honest industry, of which every volume represented a prize? And Mr. Finnigan is but one. He represents a success—the operative in a state of high development. Who can tell how many others have had or may have their independence wrecked, their aspirations blighted, by the stern necessity which drives them to the union without the power of making a sign? The truth is, that a commercial distress such as we are now forced to contemplate contains a political element which removes it entirely out of the ordinary category of pauperism. It is a contingency unforeseen and unprovided for, so far as the poor law is concerned. It is the result of a political necessity. Such a necessity, in the shape of reform, sometimes throws out of work members even of the middle and upper classes. But when this occurs, as in the abolition of obsolete duties, superseded courts of jurisdiction, or costly useless sinecures, the sufferers are not thrown upon the poor law. They invariably receive what is termed "compensation." Now, the policy of non-intervention adopted by our own Government costs these valuable members of the State all that they possess or can command. The remedy to which they are entitled is not that of poorhouse "relief," but of compensation. Such a remedy would not only be just, but would be absolutely the cheapest to the nation in the end.

GARIBALDI AND HIS VOLUNTEERS.—The following letter has been addressed by General Garibaldi to M. Baghino, instructor of the corps of Genoese Volunteers, and who has resigned the rank of Major:—"Treccorre, May 5.—What you have done for the corps of Genoese Volunteers is worthy of the praise of all good patriots. I feel I acted rightly when I advised you to place yourself with your companions at the disposal of the Government in order to put down brigandage. I then said a few words to induce you to despise the malevolence of those who apply the epithet of 'sold' to them who take the necessities of their country and not their own private opinion for their guide. Even now I feel I am doing right in not inducing my son to withdraw his resignation, which was only given in consequence of deplorable circumstances, which still continue. Let your friends persevere, as they have hitherto done, in remaining united and ready for the hardy trials which await them for the redemption of our oppressed brethren. Give my affectionate greeting to your brave companions."

CRINOLINE.—The production of crinoline is going on at a flourishing rate in Sheffield. One firm alone sends out no less than twenty tons weekly of the delicate material, while the total weekly "make" of the cutlery capital amounts to no less than 150 tons. This rate of manufacture has been maintained throughout the whole of the past winter, and promises to increase as the summer advances. Already enough crinoline has been manufactured at Sheffield to encircle the globe again and again.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN will hold no drawing-rooms this season, neither personally or by deputy, but will empower the Lord Chamberlain to issue circulars to those who would have been presented in the ordinary course, so that they may make their appearance at foreign Courts *en rigle*.

THE STATE APARTMENTS at WINDSOR CASTLE are now open to the public under the usual regulations.

THE GRAND DUKE CONSTANTINE OF RUSSIA has taken a mansion near Hyde, Isle of Wight, for the summer months.

THE KING OF PORTUGAL is to espouse the Princess Maria Pia, fifth child of King Victor Emmanuel, who has not yet completed her fifteenth year. This union is regarded in a favourable light both in Italy and in Portugal.

THE DUCHESS OF MONTPENSIER was safely delivered of a son on the 13th inst.

PRINCE OSCAR OF SWEDEN paid a visit to Liverpool on Saturday last, and, in company with certain local notabilities, inspected all the most important features of the docks and the town.

SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE, F.R.S., has resigned his seat in the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a testimonial has been presented to him by his colleagues.

MESSRS. COULTS AND CO., the bankers, have given to each of their clerks a season ticket for the Exhibition, with three days' leave of absence.

TWO DONATIONS of £1000 EACH have just been presented to the Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum by Mr. Green, the well-known ship-owner, and Mr. J. Soames, M.P. for Hull.

SIR WILLIAM DON died somewhat suddenly at Hobart Town on the 19th of March. He had been in indifferent health for some time, but almost up to the fatal termination of his illness he appeared nightly on the stage.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for erecting a memorial of the late Lord Delmonico in Ireland has resolved that the testimonial shall be in the form of a bronze statue.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY have decided on holding their meeting at Worcester next year.

THE SUM of £6827 has been already collected for the cathedral to be erected in Belfast, including £1000 from the Bishop of Down, Connor, and Dromore, and £100 from Lord Carlisle.

THE ESTIMATED COST of carrying into effect the provisions of the Thames Embankment Bill, including compensations and all other expenses, is stated to be £1,500,000.

THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT has had a 30ft. life-boat built in London on the plan of the National Life-boat Institution.

THE LAST CAPE OF GOOD HOPE MAIL FOR ENGLAND contained 13,888 letters, of which 296 were registered; 14,761 newspapers, and 61 books.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR STEPHEN LUSHINGTON has been gazetted Lieutenant-Governor of Greenwich Hospital.

THE AMOUNT COLLECTED at the Mansion House for the Albert Memorial Fund is now £48,948.

THE BURNING OF THE DANVERS SLUCE, near Lynn, has caused the submersion of 20,000 acres of land.

MR. COSTA, it appears, declined to accept payment for his services at the opening of the exhibition.

THE CHANNEL ISLANDS are importing fat cattle from England. Hitherto they have been importing them from France, but such cattle are now dearer in the latter than in this country.

THE BODY OF MR. JOHN SIMMONS, master of a vessel called the Fox, has been found in the Grand Surrey Canal, under circumstances which lead to the suspicion that he has been robbed and then murdered.

THE ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF EMANCIPATION has sent an address to Lord Palmerston thanking him for the sentiments embodied in his late speech on Italian affairs.

JOHN LAWRENCE, who is charged with the wilful murder of his sweetheart, Anne Cox, at Hendon, was fully committed for trial on Tuesday.

THE FIRST STONE OF THE BREAKWATER AT CASTLE CORNER, at Guernsey, was laid last week.

THE HON. FRANCIS VILLIERS, formerly M.P. for Rochester, whose sudden disappearance from Parliament, society, and the turf, some five or six years since, caused a sensation of an unpleasant kind, died a few days ago in Spain.

THE BRITISH SHIP UNCLE SAM, of Singapore, was totally wrecked near Formosa, on the 3rd of February, and out of the crew and passengers, numbering about forty souls, only three—one European and two Malays—were saved.

MR. FENTON, of Mappleston, Derbyshire, has just completed a patent by which he proposes, by an application of acids, alkalis, and ammonia to vegetable substances, to supply from the whole tribe of plants textile fibre, varying in quality from flax to silk.

A QUANTITY OF SAXON SILVER COINS were recently discovered at Chester, which are now being sketched for the journal of the Numismatic Society. Among them are some of the reign of Edward the Elder, A.D. 901—925, which are gems of their kind.

A ROMAN ALTAR in a good state of preservation has been dug up behind the Chester Corn Exchange. It is of the old red sandstone, and measures twenty-eight inches in height. There are four rows of letters, and in such a state that the whole inscription will be easily translated.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR has ordered, on the recommendation of her Majesty's Attorney-General, Sir Wm. Alderton, that £400 from a lapsed Chancery fund should be given to the National Life-boat Institution in consideration of its great and important services to the public.

A LETTER FROM VICRY announces that the Emperor Napoleon is expected there in the course of the season. The Municipal Council has appointed a commission, to be composed of three members, to make preparations for the Emperor's reception.

THE 300-POUNDER ARMSTRONG GUN has been officially reported, after proof, as fit for service. A flaw in the bore to which some allusion has been made is represented as unimportant. The experiment against Captain Cole's cupola will take place as soon as the naval preparations are completed.

THE INHABITANTS OF THE GOLD PROVINCE OF OTAGO, in New Zealand, have petitioned the superintendent of the province to establish a monthly mail steam-ship communication direct with Melbourne, in order to secure an early mail communication with England.

THE LOWER CHAMBER OF THE SPANISH CORTES has voted, by a large majority, the sum required to pay the debt due to France for the cost of the Duke of Angoulême's expedition, which overturned constitutional Government in Spain in 1823.

THE MELBOURNE PAPERS contain an advertisement requesting information concerning Paget Standish O'Grady, fourth Viscount Guilford, in the Irish peerage, who was last heard of as a stock-keeper at one of the remote cattle-stations in the colony.

LAST WEEK there died at Tyrnau, in Hungary, a man named Johann Jatzovits, a husar attached to the person of Cardinal Bathany, Primate of Hungary. He was 105 years of age, and married at the age of eighty-two. A daughter of the last marriage, aged eighteen, attended the funeral.

THE PERPETRATORS OF THE LATE BANK ROBBERY at Genoa have been arrested near Spezia. The prisoners are five in number, and had embarked on board a sailing-ship in the Gulf. Upon them were found various effects, valued at more than 300,000*fr.* The men were furnished with arms of different kinds.

ST. JANUARIUS OF NAPLES allowed the miracle of the liquefaction of his blood to be accomplished the other day, to the honour and in the presence of King Victor Emmanuel. The King presented the shrine of the Saint with a costly necklace, and St. Januarius thereupon caused the miracle to be performed a second time.

STEPS ARE ABOUT TO BE TAKEN for the provision of new and complete patterns of every portion of the dress and equipment of officers of regiments of militia. Few alterations will be made; the chief difference will be in the shako plate, which is to be of a universal pattern, doing away entirely with the county devices.

PRINCE ANATOLE DEMIDOFF, of San Donato, has just died, in the fifty-first year of his age. He married, in 1841, Princess Mathilde de Montfort, sister of Prince Napoleon, and daughter of Prince Jerome Bonaparte and of Princess Catherine of Wurtemberg. He separated from his wife nearly seventeen years ago.

WOLVES are at present numerous in the forest of Orleans. A dog and a goat belonging to a keeper were a few nights back devoured by them; a horse belonging to a farmer at Chateaufort-sur-Loire has also fallen a victim to their ferocity, and that in a pasturage between the park wall and the river.

A SHOCKING MURDER is reported from Coventry, a labouring man having destroyed his child under very peculiar circumstances. He took it out for a walk, and, tying a stone to its waist, threw it into a pit of water, where it was drowned. The unfortunate man is said to be labouring under some mental delusion or affliction.

THE ALL-ENGLAND ELEVEN CRICKETERS, who have been to Australia, arrived in London on Monday—the first day of the cricketing season. They visited Kennington-oval in the evening, and, of course, had a hearty reception. Of the various cricket-matches played in Victoria, amounting to twelve, the eleven have won six, drawn four, and lost two.

IT IS SAID that arrangements have been made for a ride match to come off on Wimbledon Common, on the 24th of July, between the Speaker and ten members of the House of Commons and the Lord Chancellor and ten of the peers. The Commons were the challengers. A fine opportunity this for Lord Palmerston to enact his "original and favourite" character of the "pugnacious bottleholder."

THE LOUNGER AT THE EXHIBITION.

THE JEWELLERY, THE CERAMIC COURT, AND GENERAL GLEANINGS.

Looking at them from a high-art standpoint, one cannot think very highly of a people who crowd so persistently round the cases of Hancock, Garrard, and Emanuel, and leave quite empty of their presence spaces which contain works of art more noble and more permanent. But crowds will please themselves, let critics think and say what they may; and the Koh-i-noor, now that it is cut, attracts, perhaps, even a greater number of gapers than it attracted in A.D. 1851, when it was in its original form. It is well supported, and Messrs. Garrard may be justly proud of their display. How can one fix upon any object when the articles are so many, and all so surprising? If I be forced, I should, perhaps, mention the rubies from Lahore, belonging to her Majesty and exhibited by her permission, which are mounted as a necklace in gold and enamel, with large diamonds pendent. If merit is to be judged of by the curiosity which it excites, certainly Messrs. Garrard can claim to bear away the palm. Nor am I sufficiently enthusiastic in the matter, nor do I deem myself such a decided judge, as to question the apparent judgment of the public. Still I have a word for Harry Emanuel's display, and I am indebted to him for a separate catalogue of his principal works of art, which makes my task considerably more simple. I cannot think that the use of ivory in jewellery, though he has thought it worth his while to patent it, "obviates," to quote his own language, "the objections which have prevented the use of white enamel," nor "that it affords a material available for almost any colour." It is somewhat of a novelty; and as such, but on no other ground, may repay his trouble. "The pink substance cut from a rare shell in the West Indies" I think much more beautiful, though this (also claimed as an invention) has not been patented, but calls for the absurd misquotation—

Hos versutus feel alter tulit honores.

Jewellers should leave Latin alone if they be not acquainted with hexameters and terminations.

However, when Mr. Emanuel sticks to his shop he does very well indeed: a cup carved from a solid piece of topaz and mounted in pure gold will, I may safely prophesy, always command an admiring circle. The subject is Perseus and Andromeda, very spiritedly designed and treated by Mr. Cheneau. An equestrian statue of the Prince of Wales in oxidized silver will also be attractive. By-the-way, Mr. Emanuel's temple in which these rarities are kept is very handsome in itself. It is of ebony wood, supported by eurytides, and crowned with a copy of the "herald Mercury" after John of Bologna. Now pass on to Messrs. Hancock's case, and there among the splendid display you shall find nothing to attract attention so much as the jewels lent by the Duke of Devonshire and worn by Countess Granville at the coronation of the Emperor of Russia. Thus they have historic value, but, above this, they delight by their brilliant purity and the taste displayed in their setting. Not far from them, but in every respect save that of merit vastly different, is a clock much to my fancy. It consists simply of a gold cannon, on the silver ball of which, just emerging from the mouth, is the face of the timepiece. And, above all, notice the Shakspeare vase in silver, also exhibited by Messrs. Hancock, of the chastest design and admirable workmanship. A statuette of M. Fechter as Hamlet will be noticed among the figures at the base.

The attention bestowed by the eye upon the objects which compete for its gaze is usually in an inverse ratio to their utility. Why stop to look at dishes and plates? Why handle finger-glasses? Why criticise tureens? Do we not see enough of them three or four times a day without halting at the display offered at the International Exhibition? Guided by this feeling, a visitor may contrive to pass altogether unnoticed the marvellous ceramic wonders collected at Kensington; but if, inadvertently, he loiter for a moment before some vase or statuette which allures his eye his indifference will have vanished. Saucers will bid him linger; salt-cellars will delay his march; ewers will forbid him to depart. Some of these he will scarcely recognise all at once; for they have lost their familiar aspect under the ingenious handicraft of the workman and the artist. Verily, clay in the hands of the potter has become as flexible as the softest wax, and afford wonder upon wonder of art, no less in domestic aims than the more pretentious efforts of the decorator.

Whom shall we single for praise where none should be omitted? We cannot well pass an inviting display over which are written the words "Josiah Wedgwood. Etruria." Here are to be seen vases, pigs, butter-tubs, dessert pieces, and all ornamented by the skillful hand of cunning Lessore. Perhaps we should be better satisfied if the production of Staffordshire had been coloured by an English hand—but, no matter. Close behind these is a case of a very different order, but of equal merit in its lower walk. The commissioners, I perceive, have entered its contents in the catalogue as "China,"—a very pardonable mistake, though a mistake withal. Mr. Brownfield is so successful in the production of earthenware that eyes even more skilled than commissioners' eyes might fall into the like blunder. Yet amongst all these exquisite dinner services, dessert pieces, jugs, and flower-baskets, there is but one article of china—absolutely, all the rest are mere earthenware. Here may you see a dinner service which your friends will believe to be china (think of that!) for (say) £4 10*s.* which in real china would cost £18. The whole case has been bought, I believe, just as it stands, by Messrs. Daniell and Co. They also have their own display, tasteful and profuse.

As I walk on I seem to approach the Brobdingnag of pottery. Messrs. Minton and Co. would seem to have desired to terrify by their display of astounding majolica, which appears to have been made for the suppers of the gods, or at least the giants who played marbles with Pelion and Ossa. But if I must express a partiality, it will be for the manufactures of Alderman Copeland, and especially for the case still holding its ground in the nave. Here I stayed long, and examined closely. Exquisite egg-shaped cups, so delicate that it seemed as though too close a pressure of the lips would fracture their frail edges, I turned over and over, with an almost affectionate curiosity. One tray, on which is painted one of Turner's finest landscapes, I stood before with a wrapt admiration nearly equal to that which I concede to breadth of canvas. Not should I forget to mention the busts in imitation marble, made in the material discovered by Mr. Battam. My surprise at their resemblance to the originals was accounted for when, on inquiry, I found that the "shrinking" was but one-seventeenth as compared with one-fourth in any other known preparation. The admiration felt for these various specimens of English earthenware—terra-cotta, porcelain, majolica, parian—was largely increased after a subsequent visit to those sent from the Continent. I have no hesitation in saying that in ceramic art England has clearly taken the lead. And this judgment was not arrived at until I had carefully examined the contributions from Sevres and Dresden, and those from Berlin, as carefully as their backward state of arrangement would permit. Perhaps Sevres rests on its oars: perhaps Dresden sleeps on its reputation. Be the reason what it may, in clearness of ground, in distinctness of outline, in novelty yet elegance of design, and in purity of finish, the old names so long familiar to our ears no longer represent that superiority which for so many years has been associated with them. I can only hope that this country, after overtaking, nay, beating, its rivals, will not, like them, repose unwisely on its laurels.

Assuming here to give but a slight notice of what will attract general interest, the attention of the innocent gazer as distinguished from that of the scientific visitor, I ought at once to proceed to the picture galleries, where undoubtedly the greatest interest will focus. But to these, being somewhat my speciality, I purpose giving much more detailed attention on a future opportunity, and now must point to the war trophies, the display of the Armstrong Company, with its famous gun in detached pieces in every state of progress—the splendid Woolwich trophy, equally interesting and specially noticeable for its thousand-pounder shell—the splendid model of the Warrior, contributed by her builders, the Thames Ironwork Company, round which gather troops of eager-eyed boys longing to

sail her in the Serpentine—and shot and shell whole and piecemeal. In the east transept is what some people call the Mediaeval Court, with the splendid screen for Hereford Cathedral (yet unfinished), and hanging just in front of it the blue and gold gas corona for the same place. Then a tremendous trophy of cast-steel bells, painted blue, and varnished, and near them Dent's magnificent clock. The Colebrookdale Company, who, it will be recollected, in 1851, exhibited the splendid iron gates, now erected at the end of Rotten-row, send more gates in the Renaissance style; another set of gates, even handsomer, but so delicate in elaboration as to call for the minutest examination, is sent by Messrs. Bernard and Bishop, from Norwich.

Purposing to speak merely of those objects which will attract general attention, of course I cannot pass by Minton's majolica fountain, yet unfinished, and which workmen are at the time of writing still labouring. When I say "Minton's," I use the term which has been applied to it by everybody; but those little birds who will whisper in people's ears, have informed me that the fountain was originally designed and planned in form and in colour by Mr. John Thomas, whose recent decease has been so great a loss to British sculpture, and to British singleness of heart and honesty of purpose. Be this as it may, the majolica fountain will undoubtedly be a centre of attraction, and will probably become a place for meetings whence pleasant flirtations will arise, as—*C'mhi placeritos!*—was Osler's crystal fountain in Paxton's Palace of '51.

Being in this neighbourhood, turn sharp to your left, down the steps, past the Hereford screen and the bluebells above described, and give a couple of minutes to the Colebrookdale court: for never have you seen iron and bronze so usefully and prettily worked together. Hat and coat-stands of elegant shapes, and relieved with a bit of looking-glass for the self-loving visitor, garden-chairs of fantastic yet comfortable twist, fenders and fire-guards which look thoroughly enjoyable in this genial wintry weather, and the most elegant of staircases twining away and leading to nothing. Close by is the American court, and oh! here is by no means a tall display. Light waggon, reaping-machines, sewing-machines, specimens of shirtings, minerals, and pianos, some photographs, and Mr. Cropley's "Autumn on the Hudson," of which I have already expressed my warm admiration—that is all the contribution that the dis-United States send to the world's fair.

And now, passing through the leather court, where we are attracted by Mr. Call's gorgeous case of show-saddles, skirting again the porcelain portion, where I find I have hitherto overlooked a most charming dessert set in spotted gold glass, copied from the antique Venetian, we find our way back into the nave, and, resting for a while again before Italy, are struck by the magnificence of the carved wood bedsteads, and wonder how in one with green and gold hangings, designed by Giuseppe Martinotti, of Torino, mortal could ever be found strongminded enough to sleep. And so on to France. But French Mossoo, who has at last unpacked himself, is so wonderful in his own specialities, that I must not bring him in here at the tag-end of my article, but must reserve him until next week, when I hope to dispose of him and the other most noteworthy objects hitherto undescribed, to lead you a run through the locomotive annex, and then to be free to loiter my way through the picture-galleries, where, I promise you, I will not be hurried.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

Again has the unhappy theatrical profession afforded subject for the sarcastic comments of the public by the conduct of two of its members. A few months since Mr. Harris and Mr. Chatterton were tweaking each other's noses and demanding the "satisfaction of a gentleman," and now the capricious audience of the Bow-street Police Court is amused by the daylight performances of Mr. George Vining and Mr. Horace Wigan. Mr. Wigan translates, cleverly enough, a play for the theatre of which Mr. Vining is manager. It runs for a certain time, and is then found to be too long to give time for the representation of other supposed-to-be-necessary entertainments. Mr. Wigan is requested to condense his translation; he refuses. The piece is cut down by Mr. Vining. Mr. Wigan throws stones in the columns of the *Era*; Mr. Vining replies with brickbats in the next number of the same journal; Mr. Wigan, stung by one particular brick, writes a semi-threatening letter to Mr. Vining, and Mr. Vining claims the protection of the law. An invite to the *duello* again. These gentlemen would seem to live in such a halo of romance as to be unaware that that institution is extinct; but, if they insist upon reviving it, why not let them do it in true theatrical fashion? Dressed in the correct costume of "walking gentlemen"—the seedy blue frock coat, the rumpled white ducks, and the Berlin gloves, all complete—let them meet with a stage Irishman and a stage army captain as their seconds; let them fire off property-pistols, duly loaded with powder only, and then let the real author of the piece, M. Victorien Sardou, a French gentleman, who seems to have been somehow overlooked in the matter, rush in and forgive them both on condition of their shaking hands.

Australian papers bring us the news of the death of Sir William Don, the actor-Baronet. Possessing but little original talent, the deceased gentleman had considerable mimetic power, which, added to his grotesque appearance (he was nearly six feet and a half high), and his invariable good temper, made him a favourite with provincial audiences. With the long scion the long line expires, and the baronetcy is extinct.

M. Theophile Gautier, now in London, will contribute an article on the pictures in the British department of the International Exhibition to the next number of *Temple Bar*.

What has happened to that eminent periodical the *Saturday Review*? To say that it has grown dull is nothing; but whether has fled its classic lore? It was nothing if not classical; and yet the other day, in criticising Mr. Merivale's translations of Keats into Latin, in a quotation the reviewer reproduced an error which Mr. Merivale's printer had made—

volitantis ut ala procellæ.

One would have thought that the essence of both the Universities, of which the staff of the *Saturday* is assumed to be composed, would have guessed that this was a mere misprint, and that "volitantis" was the word intended.

I understand that the members of the Savage Club have determined to invite the literary "Mossoo"—that is, the representatives of foreign journals—now in London to dinner. This is an excellent idea, which might be adopted with much propriety by other London clubs, and moreover proves that the said "Savages" have not forgotten the savage virtue of hospitality. In other respects, I am sure, our Continental literary friends will find the "Savages" as much civilised, or more so, than their compere in general society, notwithstanding the somewhat uncouth name they have been pleased to adopt.

The great flower show of the season at the Crystal Palace will be held on the 21st of May—this day week; and from the number of entries already received I believe it promises to be the most complete exhibition of flowers which has yet been held at the Sydenham Palace. The other arrangements for the day are understood to be very perfect, and the public may confidently anticipate a treat of no ordinary kind on the occasion.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The London season, and especially such a season as that of 1862, would scarcely be complete without Mr. Woodin, who for some nine years past has been one of our pleasantest "entertainers." On Monday last he returned to his old quarters, the Polygraphic Hall, and was welcomed by a crammed sally. The entertainment is the same as that of last year, "The Cabinet of Curiosities," to which a couple of new songs and characters have been added. In one of these Mr. Woodin, by the aid of a mechanical contrivance, represents successively and with excellent effect, a very tall man and a very short woman. All the old points told with the usual applause, and an admirable imitation of Mr. Sothorn as Lord Dundreary brought the entertainment to a spirited close. Country visitors should see Mr. Woodin; he is the only representative of his particular "line of business" left to us.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

To judge by the various stories showing forth the intelligence of the young Prince Imperial, heir to the French empire, he is one of the most remarkable lads which the world ever produced; and, indeed, after making due allowance for the probable amount of exaggeration which these recitals contain, and bearing in mind the high position occupied by the distinguished child, it is evident that he is a clever little fellow, quick—perhaps too quick—and unnaturally apt at learning all the ceremonial observances which are forced upon him so early. There is something touching, too, in his reception of his infant comrades—the real children of his regiment—in his presiding at their banquet, and leading one of them by the hand to the table; something undoubtedly affecting to a French soldier there is in his wonderful aptitude in taking part in military displays and at learning the regulation drill. It was said at one of the reviews of the French troops in the camp, even many months ago, that he was moving about as much as his father, either in his carriage or on his pony, riding about among the men, and chatting with them at every occasion he could seize. Now, French soldiers are exceedingly fond of children, and the most formidable bearded Zouave who has fired no end of Arab villages is converted by the smile of a child into a tender nurse.

It was said, too, that the Emperor, during his stay in the camp at Chalons, every evening invited the superior officers of a division to dinner. Those of the Third Infantry Division were there the day Marshal Canrobert arrived. After dinner the gallant Marshal asked the boy whether he had already gone through the manual exercise. The boy brought his musket, and the Marshal gave the word of command. When it came to the loading, the Marshal, either on purpose or because he remembered old things vaguely, commanded, "Ouvrez le bassinet" (priming), when the boy quietly answered, "You have forgotten your regiment; there are now percussion-caps." Whether true or not, such stories remain current, and show that the "moutard," as he is irreverently called, is popular.

The bust which is represented in our Engraving was executed by M. Dabré, of Nancy, with the intention of presenting it to the Empress on her journey towards Metz, the exposition at that city having been organised under the patronage of her Majesty. The execution of this truthful Portrait of the young Prince has already enhanced the acknowledged fame of a sculptor who has produced numerous works of the highest merit.

THE WORKSHOPS OF ENGLAND.

NO. III.—MESSRS. KERR AND CO.'S ROYAL PORCELAIN WORKS, WORCESTER.

Our visit this morning leads us to one of these old quiet places which, owing to the influence of cathedral establishments, maintain an appearance of steady-going leisurely repose, in striking con-



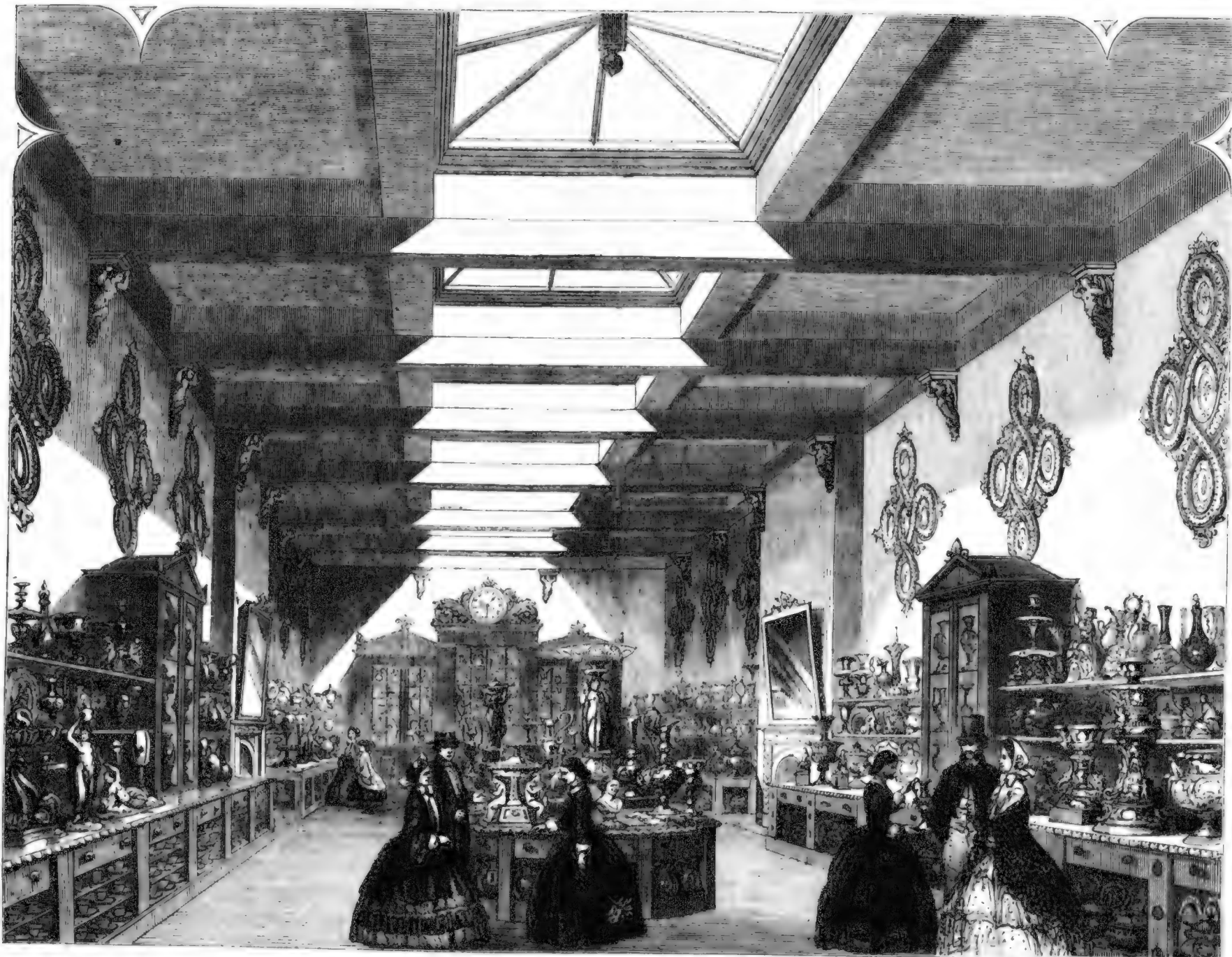
BUST OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.—(BY M. DABRÉ.)

trast to the energy and bustle of every-day life around. Worcester is our destination, and, taking the express-train at Paddington, we are carried through a beautiful country at a speed of some forty miles an hour on our journey. The "poetry of motion," albeit we sit quietly enough, is not without its influence: the howling of the engine is less noisy, the hissing of the steam less intense, and the sky gives promise of one of those delightful spring days the presence of which is so exhilarating. Onward, without a pause, till we reach the ancient city of Reading, whence, after refreshing our iron horse, we travel again, thinking of the old abbey, its mitred abbots, and its legends of Roman times. While thus ruminating on the past, numerous distant spires and domes attract our attention, and in a few minutes we find ourselves on the platform of the Oxford station, and, too busy to indulge in reflections on halls, colleges, and academic groves, transfer ourselves to the West Midland line, there to resume our journey. Pleasant memories are evoked by some of the secluded villages and lowly lanes that peep from amid tall ancestral trees which are now donning their spring attire. An old church here and there with an ivy-clad tower; a grey gable, and moss-grown tombstones inclining at all angles; half-timbered farmsteads, white-washed mills, and running brooks; noble oaks, and antique elms; cottages surrounded by trees laden with blossoms; lanes with deep ruts, and winding like the letter S; daffodils, primroses, buttercups, and daisies; green corn; young bears and peas; canal bridges, and lazy boats; old orchards, and a newly-laid-out cemetery, any reveries concerning which are summarily interrupted by the hoarse voice of the platform stentor calling out "Worcester!" and the ringing of the railway bell.

And this is Worcester, which proudly calls herself the faithful city because she clung so loyally to the son of the Beheaded two hundred years ago, and felt the full weight of the victor's power. This, the city which stretches back to Roman times and traces the name of her river to a Roman title; which tells of a Saxon King after whose name (Edgar) a gateway-tower and a street are still called; whose annals tell of Danish massacre more than eight hundred years ago; and whose cathedral, after being burnt down and destroyed again and again, is now, in this nineteenth century, undergoing a complete restoration.

After a hasty glance at the Cathedral, the Chapterhouse, and the old cloisters, we turn down a narrow street east of the choir, and soon arrive at the far-famed establishment which is the object of our visit.

Articles of fictile ware are almost coeval with our first parents. The plastic nature of the material is so obvious that the most primitive society could produce such vessels as were necessary for ordinary use. These, at first, would be sun-baked, and therefore fragile; they would be moulded by hand, and, of necessity, misshapen. Symmetry of shape, however, was attained when



THE SHOW-ROOM AT MESSRS. W. H. KERR AND CO.'S ROYAL PORCELAIN WORKS, WORCESTER.

the discovery was made of the potter's wheel. This took place at a very early period in the world's history. The wheel is represented on the Egyptian sculptures, is mentioned in Holy Writ, and was in use in Assyria. The art of firing the ware is also of the highest antiquity. Remains of baked earthenware are common in Egypt, in the tombs of the first dynasties; and the oldest bricks and tablets of Assyria and Babylon bear evidence of having passed through the fire. These examples must be nearly 3000 years old. The subject, however, is too extensive to be treated in this place, and, with this brief allusion, we leave it to consider that branch which is more especially to be referred to on the present occasion.

Porcelain, though of modern introduction into Europe, was known in China more than a century before the Christian era. So completely was the manufacture identified with that nation, that, on the introduction of porcelain into Europe by the Portuguese, in 1518, it received the name of "china," which it still to a great extent retains.

The history of the restoration of the ceramic art in Europe is a veritable page of romance. Witness the career of Palissy, that enthusiast who, having by accident obtained an enamelled cup, was impelled by an unconquerable desire to master the secret of its glaze, and who, despite every obstacle, even to the actual destitution of his family, persevered in his researches. To provide fuel for feeding his furnace, his furniture and even the very flooring of his house were consumed; and to silence the clamour of an assistant for payment of wages he stripped himself even of a portion of his apparel. But at length these efforts were rewarded by complete success; and fame, honours, and independence were thenceforward for a time his attendants. Nor did his heroism fail when, in his ninetieth year, he was dragged to the Bastille, where, with the martyr spirit strong within him, he died, because he had dared to impeach priestly dogmata.

The first porcelain works in England were situated at Bow and Chelsea, and in consequence of the patronage of George II. the productions of the latter place were sought after with the utmost avidity. In 1750 the factory at Derby was established, which became important in consequence of a union with the Chelsea artists, workmen, and models. In 1751 the Worcester establishment was founded by Dr. Wall and others, under the name of the Worcester Porcelain Company. The firm first imitated the blue and white Nankin china, but afterwards adopted the Sèvres style, with the Dresden method of painting. These works are remarkable as being the first to make use of the Cornish stone or kaolin, discovered in 1768. This substance is identical with the "kaolin" of the Chinese, and for some of the finer purposes it is indispensable.

In 1783 the establishment passed into the hands of Mr. Thomas Flight, from whom it was



W. J. FOX, ESQ., LATE M.P. FOR OLDHAM.

transferred to Messrs. Flight and Barr, who, by their taste and enterprise in the employment of artists of the highest class to design and embellish the various productions, speedily raised it into a formidable rival to the Royal manufactories on the Continent. Messrs. Chamberlain subsequently commenced a similar manufactory on the present site (in 1790); and in 1838 the original establishment of Messrs. Flight and Barr was united to that of Messrs. Chamberlain and Co., who in their turn were succeeded by the present proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Kerr and R. W. Binns, under the title of W. H. Kerr and Co.

Having explained the object of our visit, we are at once conducted through the works, and, for the information of our readers, record those observations which were so intelligently directed by our courteous guide.

The chief constituents of pottery are clay and flint, to which are added calcined bones, feldspar, gypsum, &c., all of which, with the exception of the clay, are ground. The flints are burnt in a kiln, crushed in a rolling-mill, and then ground, the process being expedited by the addition of water, and, when reduced to a semi-fluid state, the mass is pumped into the washing-mills, where a considerable quantity of water is added, and the whole violently shaken. This process occasions the grosser particles to sink, while the finer portion remains in suspension above, and the pulp is then run into receptacles called arks. The next operation is that of pumping it into a vat, where, the precise quantity of the component parts being brought together and intimately united by agitation, the mixture in its semi-fluid state is passed through sieves of silk lawn, by which any remaining impurities are removed. Thus the most complete uniformity and smoothness are attained, and the preparation is called "slip." It is afterwards passed through the drying-vat, and, after remaining in the clay-cellar for a few weeks or months, is placed in the hands of the potter for throwing or shaping into a circular form. The potter's wheel consists of an upright revolving shaft, on the top of which is a circular piece of wood, the whole being worked by means of a pulley and wheel with an endless band. The clay is first shaped by hand, and afterwards, where exactness is required, placed in moulds, and the inside brought by a tool to the required form. When dried, the vessel is placed in the hands of the turner, who bestows those niceties of shape not attainable by the wheel. The handles, spouts, &c., are next affixed. These are formed in moulds, and the connection is made by the application of "slip," which performs the same office to the potter as glue to the carpenter. Many large articles, however, are pressed in moulds in two or more parts and subsequently joined together, and, after remaining a sufficient time to dry, the ware is then ready for burning a first time, in what is called the biscuit-kiln.



WHITSUNTIDE FESTIVITIES IN ALSACE.—(FROM A DRAWING BY F. MALHIS.)

The kiln is a cylinder of brickwork, being heated by flues, the temperature varying from 4500 to 5000 Fahr. The goods are placed in "saggers," or strong coarse earthenware cases, and embedded—the ironstone in sand and the porcelain in flint powder. The saggers are ranged in piles, called "bungs," and in building them up intermediate spaces of about three inches are left for circulation of the heated air. The process of baking usually lasts from forty-eight to fifty hours, the heat being gradually increased. On being withdrawn, each article is carefully examined as to freedom from flaws, and is then ready to receive the glaze, a semi-fluid preparation, which imparts the brilliant white polish to porcelain. After undergoing this process the china (previously termed biscuit) is examined, and, having been dried, is placed in the glaze-kiln, the heat of which is less than that of the biscuit-kiln, the process here requiring only from eighteen to twenty-four hours' burning. When the ware has been withdrawn from the kiln it is deemed complete, so far as the manufacturing department is concerned. The next process is that of decoration.

The process of printing patterns on china and earthenware is accomplished with ease and at a very small expense. A design is transferred to a piece of paper by the ordinary copperplate press and the paper affixed to the ware. The paper is subsequently rubbed off, while the colour adheres to the plate or other article, and is afterwards rendered indelible by additional processes and by burning. By this simple mode patterns of the most intricate as well as of the simplest kind are reproduced with great facility.

Omitting all reference to the chemical composition of the colours and fluxes employed in ornamenting the porcelain, we direct our attention more particularly to that department of the Fine Arts in which Messrs. Kerr and Co.'s establishment has achieved so exalted a reputation—the painting of china ware. In this branch numerous artists of great ability are employed, and these are intrusted with designs the execution of which requires the highest artistic skill. Let us gaze for a few moments around. An elegant vase is in the hands of one of these gifted sons of art, who is embellishing it with a Watteau scene. Another artist holds in his hand a dessert-plate on which he is emblazoning a coat of arms, with numerous quarterings. An anachronism might be pardoned in a portrait, but a false tincture in an heraldic coat or the most trivial mistake in the display of a device, never. Garter, Norroy, and the whole College of Arms, to the rescue, and to avenge the profanation! From man's undignified taste of taking ravening beasts (often too true a counterpart) for his cognisance, we turn with delight to an artist worker who is depicting a primrose from the flower lying in all its rich beauty before him. Side by side with the student of the primrose is a fellow-lover of the beautiful, who from the elegant form of a humming-bird is transferring a "thing of beauty" to the panel before him. In these studios of genius we linger, and feel how ennobling is the pursuit in which the inmates are engaged, and to how great an extent their talents have contributed in raising the national reputation.

Most metallic colours on porcelain exhibit all their beauty and brilliance on being drawn from the enamel kiln at the first baking; but every layer of colour requires a separate firing, the finer specimens passing many times through the kiln, which is a small arched oven. The articles to be baked are placed in racks, which hold from eighteen to twenty-four each, and are subjected to the action of the heat from seven to ten hours. Glazed ware on being withdrawn from the oven presents a dull brown appearance. To remove this and secure the full effect of its lustre, the last operation—that of burnishing—is performed, which is intrusted to females, the implement used being an agate or blood-stone. The workwoman, as extreme cleanliness is indispensable, does not touch the porcelain or the burnisher, but holds them by means of clean white linen, or Brittain's patent sponge cloths, and, after having rubbed the gilding for some time, a little vinegar or white-lead is applied to cleanse the surface. The burnishing is then resumed and continued until the gilding throughout assumes a brilliant appearance.

A careful comparison of the productions of the different ceramic works of the present day will confirm the deservedly high opinion universally expressed of the Worcester porcelain, to which, in 1854, most important additional attractions were imparted. These consist of enamels executed on a porcelain body, in the style of the celebrated Champlevé enamels of Limoges, but without the threadlike outlines in gold. These admirable works (specimens of which have long been displayed in the Ceramic Court of the Crystal Palace) are among the most exquisite art-treasures in the International Exhibition, and have stimulated many rival competitors and a host of admirers. Only a few days since the whole collection was purchased by a West-end house (Messrs. Phillips, New Bond-street) for a large sum, and we learn that considerable orders from abroad have been received by Messrs. Kerr and Co. for these exquisite productions.

The estimation in which the house has long been held is best shown by a reference to the patronage with which it has been frequently honoured. A magnificent service was supplied in 1803 to George III.; and in 1807 the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester also ordered largely of the superb goods manufactured by the firm. In 1816 very extensive orders, in anticipation of her approaching marriage, were given by the Princess Charlotte; and the crowning testimony of Royal approbation is now to be seen in the International Exhibition, where the splendid dessert service in enamel manufactured for our widowed Queen is now on view. Nor have foreign Potentates and the aristocracy shown less discrimination than our own Royal house. Pattern services without number attest the appreciative patronage with which the firm have been honoured.

We conclude our examination of this interesting establishment by a glance at the spacious showroom, which we have engraved, and in which are displayed numerous specimens of the most costly and elegant productions of Messrs. Kerr and Co.'s skill. Within a series of quatrefoils are ranged specimens of the services executed for the Royal family and foreign Potentates, and that reputation of the firm is still advancing is proved by the fact that it has been honoured by the patronage not only of the Queen but also of the Princess Royal, while, to add a circumstance not generally known, a delicately beautiful toilet breakfast service is now being prepared for Princess Alice.

The following tribute to the taste of Mr. Binns appears in the *Illustrated Catalogue of the Art-Journal* for the past month:—"The works at Worcester have been famous for upwards of a century, and, although retrograding for a time, of late years they have effectually regained their high character under the wise direction of Mr. R. W. Binns, F.S.A., a gentleman of knowledge and taste, who has long been earnestly striving to advance the art of the potter." There is no manufacturer in England better qualified to direct the fine-art department of such works than Mr. Binns. The prosperity of the manufactory at Worcester is in a great measure due to his talents, combined with the energy and enterprise of Mr. Kerr, who is also noted for his high appreciation of art and the determined manner in which he has sought to emulate the artistic potters of old and to encourage the art-student. He is about retiring from the Royal Porcelain Works; and, previous to his doing so, the whole of the elegant domestic and fine-art stock is being disposed of at prices which are as nothing compared to the gems they secure to visitors and amateurs, who may not for years have another opportunity of selecting on similar terms such admirable specimens of the ceramic art.

The firm have a dépôt in Ireland, 114 and 115, Capel-street, Dublin; and they have also lately opened a town showroom and office in London, at 91, Cannon-street, City, at both which places samples of their productions can be seen.

EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE.—A plate-layer named George Pilkington, engaged on the Midland Railway at Sneyton, near Nottingham, had a very narrow escape of being killed on Saturday morning, the 10th inst. At the time in question he was working on the "six-foot" near the Sneyton crossing, when he perceived the train from Leicester coming in, but owing to a mistake on his part he stepped between the line on which the train was running. He was instantly knocked down by the engine, but the carriage passed over him without touching him. Although severely injured, he is now in a fair way of recovery.

W. J. FOX, LATE M.P. FOR OLDHAM.

WE this week engrave a Portrait of the above-named eminent politician and lecturer, whose retirement from Parliament, in consequence of increasing infirmity, took place a week or two ago. Mr. Fox, the son of a small farmer, was born at Uggheshall Farm, near Wrentham, Suffolk, in 1786. His father becoming afterwards a weaver at Norwich, young Fox was removed thither, and in youth giving promise of the talents which now distinguish him, he was dedicated to the Christian ministry among the Congregational Non-conformists. With this view he was sent to Homerton College, then under the direction of Dr. Pye Smith; but afterwards embracing tenets allied to Socinianism, he became a preacher of the Unitarian body, and eventually, taking a position independent of all sectarian denominations, he for many years preached at the Unitarian Chapel in South-street, Finsbury. Mr. Fox has taken an active part in the politics of the day, employing both his pen and voice in supporting the extreme Liberal party. During the anti-corn-law agitation he was a frequent and able speaker at the meetings of the League, and wrote the "Letters of a Norwich Weaver-boy" which appeared in its newspapers. He has also published "Lectures to the Working Classes" and a philosophical work on "Religious Ideas." Mr. Fox was elected M.P. for Oldham in 1847, which borough he unsuccessfully contested on the advent of Lord Derby in 1852; but, a vacancy occurring shortly after by death, he was re-elected at the close of the same year, and continued to sit for the borough till his recent retirement. He was also one of the chief writers for the *Weekly Dispatch* newspaper. Mr. Fox was connected with the foundation of the *Westminster Review*, and wrote the first article of its first number as well as various subsequent contributions. He wrote also in the *Prospect* and other periodicals, and for some years edited the *Monthly Repository*.

Of the political character and career of Mr. Fox it is unnecessary to speak at length, as the remarks of "The Lounger at the Clubs" which appeared in the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES* of April 26 will be still fresh in the recollection of our readers. To them we beg to refer; and we are sure that all men, however they may have differed from Mr. Fox in opinion, will regret with our contributor that another of the intellectual lights of the House of Commons has disappeared from it. As our readers are aware, Mr. Hibbert, an advanced Liberal, has been returned without opposition to fill Mr. Fox's place in Parliament.

WHITSUNTIDE FESTIVITIES IN ALSACE.

THE earliest records inform us that in the primitive ages of Christianity the festival of Whitsuntide was always celebrated with the most solemn religious ceremonies. In more modern times secular forms and ceremonies were introduced in the observance of Whitsuntide, and among those still kept up in various countries some even seem to retain vestiges of the spring festivals of Paganism. In the many villages of the Rhenish province of Alsace the Whitsuntide customs very closely resemble our English observances of May Day. The Alsatian peasantry, in conformity with ancient custom, still keep the ceremony of planting the may-tree, which may be likened to the old English custom of setting up the maypole to usher in the merry month of May. Another Whitsuntide custom prevailing in Alsace bears a close resemblance to our old English May day observances. We allude to the annual appearance of the so-called Pfingstquack or Pfingstblözel. This personage (who would seem to be a near relation of our "Jack-in-the-green") is a young country lad clothed in foliage and flowers. He goes from door to door, followed by a retinue of his rustic companions, one of whom carries a basket and another a small cask. When, by the contributions of the villagers, a sufficient number of eggs and cakes are collected in the basket, and a reasonable portion of wine poured into the cask, the day's merrymaking concludes with a banquet.

Another old custom still kept up in Alsace is curious. In country places the young men assemble together, with horses gaily caparisoned, and ride in procession, reciting old national saws and proverbs. They ride along the boundaries of the village, accompanied by some of the older inhabitants, who assist in directing them on the exact boundary lines. Our illustration represents this ceremony as the artist witnessed it in a village of Upper Alsace, where the animation of the scene was heightened by the picturesque costumes of the peasantry, the rustic music, and merry jesting which accompanied the cortège in its route.

THE 4TH DRAGOON GUARDS.—A few days will, in all likelihood, witness the official notification of the removal of Colonel Bentinck from the command of the 4th Dragoon Guards. We are not aware of the particular form in which this necessary step will be taken. As the officer in question has not completed twenty-five years' service he is not in strictness eligible for the half-pay list, and possibly means may be found of allowing him to receive the regulation value of his commissions, and thus retire altogether from the Army. Colonel Brownrigg's period of service on the staff has already expired, and as soon as provision is made for replacing him he will revert to half-pay, we trust never again to be put in a position of responsibility like that which he has shown himself so singularly unfitted to fill. Some further changes in the 4th Dragoon Guards may also be looked forward to, and we trust sincerely that under new auspices this fine old corps may before long recover the honourable position for which, in former times, it was distinguished in the service.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

THE STATIONS OF THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—Great progress has been made during the past week in the construction of the different stations of the Metropolitan Railway. On Wednesday week the station near Gower-street, Euston-road, was so far advanced that the work of fitting in the doors and window-frames of the booking-office above the footpath was commenced. The platforms are under the roadway, and the whole station is comprised in a huge arch of 45ft. span. Ingress and egress to the station are obtained through the booking-offices on the north and south sides of the Euston-road, and thence by wide exit and entrance stairs to the platform below. The Portland-road station is completed, the rails for the mixed gauge laid, and the booking-office above is nearly finished. The station at the Edgware-road is in an equally advanced state above and below the surface of the road. One of the principal halting-places on the line will be the station at King's-cross, where a junction is effected with the Great Northern Railway 20ft. below the surface of the ground. The elliptical iron roof, which is let in with glass to light the substructure, is now placed in position. The works for the great station in Victoria-street are progressing rapidly.

ACCIDENT ON THE LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY.—A frightful accident happened on Friday week on the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway. The latter part of the train leaving the Victoria station at ten minutes past seven o'clock in the morning ran off the line at a place known as Ospringle-place Bank, near Faversham. At this spot there is a high embankment, down which the carriages fell on to a garden wall. Two persons were killed: one, who is supposed to be a commercial traveller named Plumb, and the other William Harris, an inspector on the company's line. Several other passengers were dangerously hurt. One more death has since resulted from the accident. An inquest on the bodies of the sufferers was opened in the afternoon, and adjourned in order that the Government inspector might go over the line. This has since been done, and the inquest brought to a close by the jury returning a verdict of "Accidental death," thus exonerating all parties from blame. The jury, however, express an opinion that the accident was caused by the imperfect state of the permanent way at the spot.

THE GREAT CATTLE SHOW IN BATTERSEA PARK.—The Royal Agricultural Society of England are making extensive preparations for the International Cattle Show to be held in Battersea Park during the ensuing month. The ground on which the show is to take place is already staked out to the extent of some twenty-five or twenty-six acres, and workmen are engaged in making the necessary drainage and other requirements for so extensive an exhibition. Nor is it intended that the exhibition of this year shall be merely confined to the cattle show and stationary engines to be exhibited at Battersea Park. The council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England have secured two hundred acres of land in the vicinity of the Farningham station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, where there will be a public exhibition of every description of steam-cultivators in action. In order to render it the more attractive arrangements have been made by the council with the London, Chatham, and Dover company to run frequent trains, at merely nominal charges, between Victoria station and Farningham.

TRADES UNION OUTRAGE.—Another illustration of the maliciousness as well as pettiness of the perpetrators of "trades union outrages" comes from Sheffield. A razor-grinder named Green had, it appears, taken more work than he could do himself, though he gave the surplus to his son. He was warned against doing such a villainous act, but, neglecting the warning, the mill where he worked was broken into, and his tools, to the value of £12, were thrown into the boiler fire.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

ALL the Italian singers seem to be getting ill. First Signor Ronconi was unable to sing at the Royal Italian Opera, and was replaced by Signor Delle-Sedie in the part of Figaro. Then Signor Giuglini's voice failed him at Her Majesty's Theatre, and this admirable "light tenor" had to give up his part in the "Puritani" to a still lighter, or rather much flimsier, one, Signor Bettini. Finally, Signor Armandi, a tenor of the class known as "robust," had to make his appearance last Tuesday (also at Her Majesty's) as Edgardo, in the "Lucia," and, thanks, no doubt, to his "robustness," contrived to do so, though he, too, was said to be on the sick list, and, indeed, required no medical certificate to prove that he had something the matter with his throat.

Signor Delle-Sedie is not heard to any particular advantage in "The Barber of Seville." The *Times*, the *Telegraph*, and other journals justly remark that in the principal air he was scarcely heard at all, owing to the unusual loudness of the orchestra. Mr. Costa's admirable band, however, is, as a rule, too loud for the singers, and it may be said that Signor Delle-Sedie should not have accepted a contest with it had he not been determined to overcome it. Either the players must make less noise or the singers more. The former alternative seems to us the most desirable of the two, and probably Signor Delle-Sedie shares our opinion. Probably, too, Mr. Costa does not, or at least did not last Saturday; and in any case Signor Delle-Sedie produces a very different impression in the part of Figaro to what he does in that of Renato in "Un Ballo in Maschera."

Mdlle. Patti sings the music of Rosina very beautifully, though it does not suit her quite so well as that of Amina, the part in which she made her first appearance before an admiring British public. Sentimental and pathetic parts are doubtless better suited for the display of this young singer's particular talent than such brilliant semi-comic and comparatively heartless ones as are found in the class to which Rosina belongs. Rosina, it is true, falls in love with Count Almaviva, and does so even when she believes him to be nothing better than a ragged Spanish student (Signor Mario does not dress the character in rags; but he would if he dressed it correctly—a point about which he, very properly, does not care). At the same time, however, she deceives her old guardian with a skill which a discreet sentimental young lady might also possess, but in which she certainly would not openly take delight, as the perverse Rosina does. However, the public, on the whole, have accustomed themselves too much to look upon the girl of seventeen, who falls in love at first sight and does not exactly know who her admirer is until she is on the point of eloping with him, as a sort of accomplished coquette of the high comedy pattern; one of those *grandes coquettes* who, in the cut-and-dried theatrical system of the French, are contrasted with *ingenues*, and who are generally widows with considerable personal attractions, great powers of repartee, immense fortunes, and little regret for the husbands from whom they have inherited them. The fact is, we scarcely ever have the chance of hearing or seeing a young Rosina. Before the young actresses and singers (especially the young singers) are old enough to play the part, they are a little too old to look it. Rosina's youthfulness is one of her greatest charms—a truth of which we have often been forcibly reminded by seeing the character attempted any time during the last dozen years by such comparatively venerable vocalists as Mme. Persiani, Mme. Grisi, and Mme. Viardot Garcia. It would be difficult to decide which of these three celebrated Rosinas was the worst. Mme. Viardot-Garcia was the most offensively coquettish, Mme. Grisi the most forward in the familiar free-and-easy style. We forget Mme. Persiani's most striking faults, but she certainly possessed none of the qualities that are absolutely necessary for representing the part as the author intended it. Let us be thankful, then, for having a young Rosina in Mdlle. Patti. Long may she retain her youth, and in the meanwhile there is no reason why she should not cultivate her singing so as to leave her ancient rival no superiority even on that point—which it must be confessed is, after all, rather an important one.

Mme. Guerrabella's début at Her Majesty's Theatre in the part of Elvira in the "Puritani" took place under very unfavourable circumstances. We have already mentioned that Signor Giuglini, who sings the music of Arturo to perfection, was unable to appear, and the public were not at all satisfied with the performance of his substitute, Signor Bettini. Every one, however, in the musical world, knows that Mme. Guerrabella is a most accomplished singer, and, we believe, as soon as she has a fair trial, her success on the stage will be even greater than it has been in the concert-room.

What is there in our summer climate that affects these Italian tenors and baritones so terribly? Can English weather be fatal to these tender-throated beings even in the month of May? The French journalists, who, of course, expected on their arrival in London to find it enveloped in fog, have been writing the most civil things about our sky and our sun in their letters on the subject of the International Exhibition. Scarcely have their letters been translated for the gratification of the English public, when an accusation of the most formidable, unanswerable, kind is brought against the climate by a trio of Italian singers. The accusation is made tacitly, it is true, but in that its very bitterness lies. It is made so tacitly that the singers remain perfectly silent—struck dumb by the chilly temperature of an English May.

The *Musical World* states that Signor Verdi's cantata is about to be produced at Her Majesty's Theatre with full band and chorus, under the direction of the composer. The solo parts originally intended for Signor Tamberlik have been altered for Mdlle. Titiens by Signor Verdi. "It will then be seen," says our contemporary, "how much the great preliminary festival has lost." The utmost curiosity and interest are excited about Signor Verdi's proscribed work, and, no doubt, a large crowd will be present at the first performance. This, we may presume, will constitute some slight recompense to the composer for the treatment he has received.

The fourth Philharmonic concert of the present series was remarkable not only for the excellence of the programme but also for two public "demonstrations" in honour of Dr. Sterndale Bennett, who, on entering the orchestra, was received with the most enthusiastic and significant applause, and of Meyerbeer, who, after Mdlle. Titiens had sung his "Va, dit elle," was called forward from his seat among the audience and complimented in a similar manner. The directors, by-the-way, ought to have included something of Verdi's in the programme. Is there not, in all his operas, one single vocal piece fit for the ears of the Philharmonic audience? and can any one imagine that an air by the most popular of living and working Italian composers would have been unworthy to figure in a bill which included a symphony by Herr Gadé, the great Scandinavian musical bore?

GREAT CONFLAGRATION IN HOLLAND.—Accounts from the Hague of the 9th inst. state that the commercial town of Enschede, in the province of Overijssel, in Holland, has been destroyed by fire, which broke out on Thursday week, and, according to one account, was the act of ill-disposed persons, but is otherwise stated to have been caused by lightning. Certain it is that flames burst out simultaneously in different parts of the town. The alarm was raised about the middle of the day, and, favoured by the dry state of the buildings, no rain having fallen for some time, and by a strong wind, the flames spread with inconceivable rapidity, so that in the space of an hour the conflagration had extended from one end of the town to the other. All attempts at extinguishing the burning houses were out of the question, as it was as much as the firemen could do to save their own lives, for the fire surrounded them on all sides, leaving but little chance of escape, and several of their engines were left behind and burned. About five o'clock a storm approached the place, but passed away without any rain falling, though the wind caused the flames to burn fiercer than ever. In the end the entire town, with its four churches, council-house, post-office, and numerous manufactories, became a heap of ruins, and more than 4000 people were rendered homeless. They could not save any of their property, for so soon as their furniture brought out of their houses than the flames approached and consumed everything in the streets before it could be removed beyond the burning mass. Fortunately, so far as is known, but few lives have been lost, though at present there is much uncertainty on the subject. Only one body, that of an old female, had been found; but no strict search had been made at the time when the last accounts were written. The place was well known as the seat of various manufactures, and was the busiest locality in the province.

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